

HOLLAND PREPARED TO WITHSTAND KULTUR—DIKES READY FOR FLOOD

HOLLAND'S ARMY 500,000 STRONG

Formidable Body, Well Prepared to Defend the National Honor

GROWTH OF FEW YEARS

Best Trained Fighting Force in History of the Netherlands

Only some two days' march north of the battle arena in Flanders stands a formidable army, intact, fresh and vigorous, that has not yet fired a shot in the great war. It is the army of the Netherlands.

That army has been growing ever since the work of training began feverishly back in August, 1914, and has been carried on without a break. A special law was passed in 1913 greatly widening the circle of those liable to service, with the result that all the men under arms on August 1, 1914, were relieved by newly trained men and sent home, though they can be recalled to the colors immediately should occasion arise.

That the country's military orders had no intention to rest on their oars after the achievement was shown by a bill promptly passed by Parliament providing for a re-examination of all men of the Landsturm born since 1855 who had been rejected for one reason or another. The measure, of course, yielded a very substantial increase to Holland's available military forces.

How large a mass of trained men Holland could now place in the field is easily discernible. There is first the army that was mobilized in the days of the war's outbreak, probably not far short of a quarter of a million men, and later sent home on indefinite leave. Then there is the new army of a like size.

Moreover, there is a very considerable body of men, who, prior to 1914, had finished their period of fifteen years in militia, Landwehr and Landsturm, but who are subject to call should occasion require.

This should bring the number of trained men available to half a million men and possibly well over that number, constituting a far more formidable and probably better-trained fighting force than the Netherlands has ever before possessed.

In equipment, too, the Netherlands army has made great strides during the last four years. The ammunition industry has been greatly extended and improved. The artillery arm, in which the country was notoriously weak, has been re-equipped to no far as machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, and anti-aircraft guns is also in course of execution.

Serious efforts have been exerted to improve Holland's aerial service. A reorganization is estimated to cost between \$7,200,000 and \$7,800,000. The new scheme provided for fifteen airplane divisions, comprising fifty-eight battle planes and sixty-five scouting planes. Despite Germany's own big needs, the arrival of a dozen machines from that country was reported not a great while ago.

WIRE FENCES TWIXT DUTCH AND GERMAN

Divisional Lines Arbitrary. At One Place Frontier Bice's Railway Ticket Office

There is a barb-wire boundary between Holland and her neighbors—Germany and Belgium—that presents a remarkable picture at some points, where it bleeds farmhouses, towns, or even cuts straight across the platform of frontier railway stations.

At one place a street is divided up the middle, so that Dutch and German shops face each other across barriers of barb wire. On the further side of the street runs a street railway, which is in Germany. Separated from the tracks by a high wire fence there runs down the middle of the street a strip twelve feet wide, which is neutral ground. Then comes another fence, and the narrow bit of road and pavement beyond it are in Holland. At each street corner are narrow openings to allow passage from one country to the other, sentries of each country standing carefully guard on either side. It is the main street of a busy town, and the ordinary town life flows back and forth, while the little Dutch street boys and the German street boys through the meshes.

Down this street at the beginning of the war the Dutch population watched for four days and nights the German army marching southward into Belgium. All the villages on the frontier lead a confusedly bisected existence, a belt of barb-wire, as it were, separating the heads from their feet. At a few points the German side of the barb-wire fence is further protected by wires carrying electric current, which are set up and down the line during the night.

Part of the town of Maarle-Hertog in Belgium, but it was saved from German occupation early in the war by the fact that it is actively surrounded by Dutch territory—a little Belgian island in the middle of Holland. From here to the rear, the frontier one travels over a well-served roadway, which is Dutch, while the ditch at the side is Belgian. At the railway station, which is Maarle in Holland and Weide in Belgium, the frontier runs straight through the ticket office and out across the platform on either side. A line of colored tiling in the floor marks the boundary, and the words "Nederlands" and "België" are set in the concrete on either side. On both platforms the sentries of the two countries face each other at a distance of a yard or so apart.

BRISTOL DOCKS EXTENDED
U. S. and State Agree to Push Work Beyond Legal Limits

Harrisburg, April 25.—Federal and State authorities have reached an agreement whereby two shipbuilding companies at Bristol, the American and Merchants, may proceed with construction of docks and other works beyond what was established as the legal limit. It was found that the work has been extended to lower-water mark, which transcends the state law unless permission is given by the Commissioner of Navigation, the Atlantic Coastway.

Regarding the disputed matter, the authorities have agreed to proceed on the basis of the state law, but to extend the work to lower-water mark, which transcends the state law unless permission is given by the Commissioner of Navigation, the Atlantic Coastway.

HOLLAND'S EFFICIENT LITTLE ARMY PREPARED TO DEFEND NEUTRALITY



WASHINGTON SEES HOLLAND IN WAR

Nation Will Resist Desperate "Mailed Fist," Capital View

TENSION IS NOW GREAT

Washington, April 25.—Germany is holding the mailed fist over Holland to enforce sanction of supply shipments through that country into Belgium.

In her desperate effort to drive through a decision in the great west front blood issue, the Teuton diplomacy is once more showing its ruthless disregard for the rights of neutrals. The situation appeared fraught with war possibilities, but there was a strange dearth of official news here about the developments, while American officials suggested that the press refrain from too much comment in the absence of facts here.

If war comes, Germany would undoubtedly seek to pounce through Holland, opening a path to Belgium which she wants for troops and supplies. Holland's border is well protected by highly-trained troops, but it is doubted if the Dutch could withstand long any serious attempt at invasion.

Germany's military has now in pressing Holland led some authorities here to believe the Teuton war lords are anxious at the result of the British naval Parliament to fortify the mouth of the Scheldt—thus affording protection against attack from the sea. This was aimed at Great Britain, and England protested so strongly as to constitute a virtual ultimatum and the bill was defeated.

Military experts here believe that Allied forces could be sent to Holland's aid if it would resist bravely more than half million Germans to overrun the little country and force their will.

This would depend on Holland's determination, however, to literally sink or swim. The scheme of defense of the little neutral embosoms concentration of her forces in a restricted area—the "Holland fortress"—comprising the provinces of North and South Holland, with parts of Zeeland and Utrecht. Two-thirds of this area is surrounded by the sea. On the land side are strongly established military works, rendered exceedingly difficult of attack by inundations. The German land approaches to the Holland border are hilly, Amsterdam being fortified and there also are inundation defenses which make any successful attack by the Germans.

Control of the inundations has not been entirely in Dutch hands, however, and the fear is expressed here that Germany's long arm of intrigue may have stretched to the point where the defense of the country in event of invasion may be jeopardized by German agents.

**CHEVRON FOR OVERSEAS
SERVICE PLEASES MEN**

Men Who See Six Months in France Permitted to Wear Gold Insignia

With the American Army in France, April 25.—Joy was spread through the entire American expeditionary force by the official announcement that all officers and enlisted men in France, regardless of whether they are engaged in combat or doing noncombatant work, are entitled to the gold chevron for six months overseas.

A majority already were sporting the gold V-shaped stripes, rendered exceedingly unpopular in France, where only men at the front received the honor. The new regulation means that men in France away from the front were stationed at French or British ports or were doing clerical work instead of fighting.

The decision was reached following negotiations with officials of the War Department at Washington, and is extremely popular. Those who have served six months are to be awarded a blue chevron.

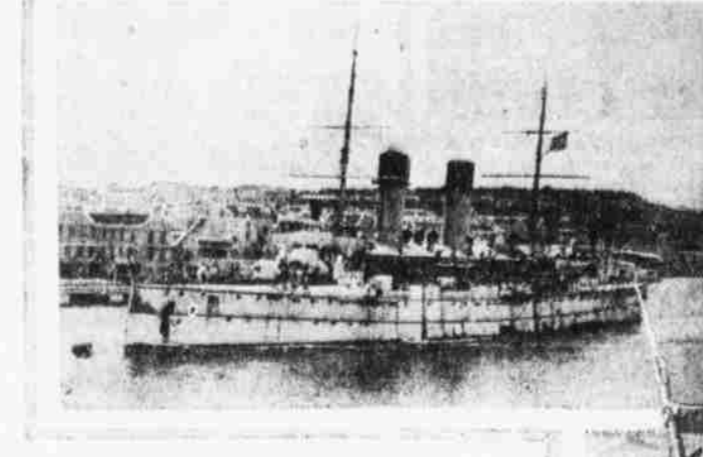
It is also announced that men in the tank corps will wear a special collar insignia, a miniature tank mounted over two salamanders, heads toward center, and with a half wreath beneath.

GERMANS HONOR RICHTHOFEN
Dead Airman Called National Hero by His Chief

Berlin, April 25 (via London). A tribute to Baron von Richthofen, famous German airman, killed recently, was paid by Lieutenant General von Hoepfner, commander of the Imperial air force.

"Richtofener's home going back to his return from his pursuit of the enemy," says an official order. "He has fallen. The army has lost its generalissimo and beloved leader. He remains the hero of the German people for whom he fought and died."

INUNDATION DEFENSE OF HOLLAND AGAINST INVASION



Wilhelmina the Only Queen Against Kaiser

The prospect of Holland's entrance into the war on the side of the Entente brings sharply into view the possibility of the Kaiser having arrayed against him in his aggressive plan of world conquest the first woman sovereign to take up the gauntlet thrown into the face of humanity. She is Queen Wilhelmina Helena Paulina Maria of the Netherlands, thirty-eight years old, who succeeded to the throne on the death of her father, King William III, in 1890.

Her husband is a German prince who has never been popular with the Dutch people. The heir to the throne is their daughter, the Princess Juliana.

**Kaiser Masses Troops
on Holland Frontier**
Continued from Page One

German ministers, owing to the nearness of their respective capitals, no home for instructions of imperial character, rather than rely on the uncertain character of telegraphic communication.

**U. S. READY TO CALL
OFF AID FOR HOLLAND**

Washington, April 25.—If the comment of Dutch newspapers, according to the United States of duplicity in the proposal that equal tonnage should leave Dutch harbors for America is to be taken as indicative of the feeling of the Netherlands government and people, the United States is prepared to withdraw its offer of three ships to expedite grain to Holland.

Officials expressed disappointment and surprise at the reception accorded the offer of the United States, which was based on a proposal of the Dutch Government to alleviate suffering from a shortage of breadstuffs. The offer was supplementary to President Wilson's statement of March 29, when the Dutch ships were provided for Holland if ships were sent to carry it.

If Holland does not desire to take advantage of the offer to expedite the grain, the original offer to furnish grain still holds, but the time consumed in sending ships from Holland to America will delay the relief the United States is ready to grant.

The three ships provided for expediting the grain were taken of important runs and will have to be returned unless some use is made of them soon.

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INUNDATION DEFENSE OF HOLLAND AGAINST INVASION



HOLLAND'S TROUBLES STARTED WITH WAR

Disputes Constantly Arising, First With Germany, Then Great Britain

Diplomatic history which covers the period from October, 1915, to the present time, illustrates vividly the difficulties with which Holland has had to contend in her geographical situation between the belligerents.

The record shows that disputes have arisen now with Germany and now with Great Britain, the progress of which was followed by deepest interest, not unaccompanied by anxiety, by the entire Dutch nation.

The Orange Book was delayed for months by the time that some settlements of the questions at issue were reached, but several matters were still in suspense, it says, and some uncertainty in these matters is the striking feature of the Dutch situation, which is at the same stage that had been reached June 7, 1918, when, on the ground of elaborate technical evidence, Germany declared the incident closed, that no German warship had sunk the Tubantia and insisted it was likely that a torpedo which had been previously fired at a British warship had remained afloat and come in contact with the liner.

To this portion of the Orange Book a footnote by the Dutch Government added that Holland maintained its previous attitude that a German torpedo sank the Tubantia and said the Dutch government was determined to leave nothing undone to obtain additional light on the matter and asked further information from Germany.

Another case dealt with is that of the destruction in April, 1918, by a German submarine of the Dutch steamship Berkelstroom. Holland sharply demanded full reparation for this act, and especially protested against the German submarine commander's alleged utterance that all goods bound for England were contraband and all ships bound for England would be sent to the bottom.

Germany on July 9, 1918, justified the sinking of the Berkelstroom, and invited the owners of the cargo on board the steamship to make their claim to the Hamburg police court. Germany denied that the submarine commander used the words complained of, declaring they



WHERE GERMANS THREATEN HOLLAND
The appearance of German cavalry units on the Westphalian border constitutes a German threat in support of the Kaiser's demands on the little kingdom.

the Dutch throne because they dared not urge their claim when the Kaiser's policy was in the face of an adverse European opinion. When, however, the Dutch King William III of England, who was Prince of Orange and Stadtholder of Holland, died in 1912 without an heir, the King of Prussia, as claimant to the title and principality of Orange, made a dicker to his own advantage with Louis XIV, and ceded the territory of Orange to France.

The Dutch, however, held on to the title Prince of Orange, and it is borne by every heir to the ruling house. The Hohenzollerns also kept the empty title as something that might come in handy some time.

On several occasions Prussian leaders had attempted to possess itself of the title Prince of Orange, and in March, 1890, and the French equivalent of the decrees on the question of the interruption of the nationality of merchantmen, which Holland maintains established by her flag—a case in point being the Dutch steamship Hamburg, which was seized by a British warship and taken to Halifax while proceeding from New York to Cuba in 1915. The steamship at the time was under charter to an American company. Holland maintained her protests against the seizure and subsequent requisition of the steamship by the British Admiralty as contrary to the law of nations, which had already been disregarded in previous instances by Great Britain and France.

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HOLLAND IS CHIEF DEFENSE OF HOLLAND

Nation Enabled to Resist Trespass With Flooded Tracts and Submerged Fortifications—Oceans and Rivers Faithful Allies

NO COUNTRY, perhaps had greater desire, or greater reason, to remain aloof from the European war than Holland. As with all neutral nations, the aim was to maintain a position of present a kindly, impartial face to every belligerent. It was a carefully calculated policy, which included checks not only upon deliberate attempts to present strict neutrality, but upon inadvertent acts which might irritate one or more of the governments embroiled in the conflict. Yet Holland's position was delicate to a degree not appreciated by those who have not studied the politics of the situation; factors and conditions which, perhaps, did not exist in the case of any other European country, might combine at any time to overthrow the plans of those who are steering the Dutch ship through the devious maze of international diplomacy.

How well, in this event, Holland could protect herself against infringement of her neutrality was a matter of opinion. Some authorities here, who are not more successful than her neighbor Belgium did, while, on the other hand, there are assertions of those familiar with the situation that Holland could provide more trouble for an armed invader than would be acceptable either to Germany or the allied nations at this time.

Has No Big Forts
There is no thought of frontier fortresses could protect the country at bay for more than a few days at most. Holland has no forts of the strength of Liege, Namur, Trier, or Dinant. The only strategic points are the coast and the railway centers, and fall back upon Amsterdam and territory beyond the famous waterline, which is protected by the Zuider Zee. The flooding of the Amsterdam Water Line would mean the bringing down of the old Haarlemmer Meer. This lake existed as late as 1814, an area of seventy square miles, and an average depth of thirteen feet. Exposed to all the winds, it was a hazardous area for the fleet, and a strong power, and the history of Holland contains no more interesting or thrilling tale than the battles which were waged among fleets of sailing craft.

Former Experiences
The confidence of the Dutch in their water line is strengthened by the fact that upon two occasions they have let the floods and brought discomfiture to the invader. In a circle of the hundred thousand invaders of Louis XIV were turned back the last with which inundation operations were carried out was in 1715, when a greater area than was necessary. The French were absolutely set at naught, but freezing weather gave them new hope. A thaw came, however, before the enemy could sail.

The Field's correspondent is of opinion that in the end the Dutch would be obliged to give way, despite inundation, to the attack of a strong power backed by all the resources of land, sea and air warfare as applied in these modern days. He does not, however, believe that the members of the House of Commons would be up to a much stiffer defense than Belgium maintained. The frontiers of the Netherlands are guarded by a well-trained, well-equipped army, prepared to meet any invasion, while the sea is guarded against any attempt that might be made by the Allies, either to attack the coast or to land troops. Holland's untried and untried charge of the defense against Germany.

**ELECT HOUSE OF LORDS
ON NEW PLAN PROPOSED**

Lord Bryce's Committee Apparently Would Drop Hereditary Principle Altogether

London, April 25.—Lord Bryce's committee on the reform of the House of Lords recommends in its report that the house consist of two sections, one of 240 persons selected by panels of members of the House of Commons distributed in geographical groups and the other to consist of persons chosen by a joint standing committee of both Houses of Parliament.

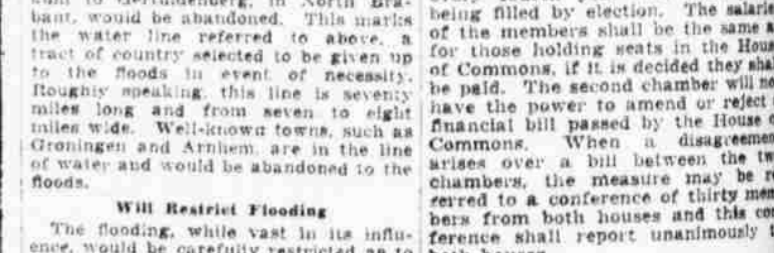
The number of these committees is recommended to be about one-fourth of the whole second chamber, excluding members ex officio.

The report also recommends that the terms of office for members of the second chamber shall be twelve years, one-third of the members retiring every fourth year and their places being filled by election. The salaries of the members shall be the same as for those holding seats in the House of Commons. If the measure is passed, the House of Lords will be reconstituted in the second year of its existence.

Factory Waste Poisons Cattle
Harrisburg, April 25.—As a result of reports of cattle being killed when fed waste products of various factories, a Department of Agriculture has issued a circular warning owners to be sure that food is wholesome. Analyses have shown that killed cattle have shown hitherto unknown conditions.

**WITH FINGERS!
CORN'S LIFT OUT**

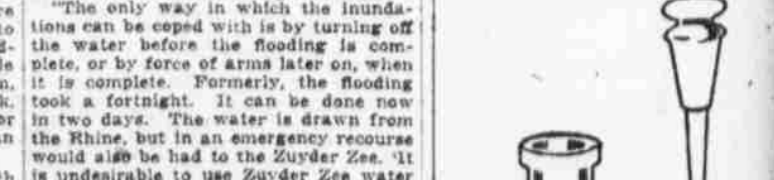
Costs few cents! Doesn't hurt a bit! Drop a little Freese's on that tough corn, instantly that corn stops hurting, then you lift it right out, with the fingers. Yes, magic!



A tiny cent of Freese's costs but a few cents at any drug store, but is sufficient to remove every hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and the callus, without soreness or irritation. Freese's is the sensational discovery of a Cincinnati genius.

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