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## **Special war edition. No. 1058. Vol. XX. No. 66 December 7, 1914**

Berlin, Germany: Continental Times, G.m.b.H., December 7, 1914

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Every  
**Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday**

# The Continental Times

## Special War Edition

Every  
**Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1914.

ROTTERDAM LUCERNE BERLIN GENEVA VIENNA ROME

No. 1058. Vol. XX. No. 66.

### War News.

W.T.B. French attacks were repulsed in Flanders and near Metz. The Germans made good progress at La Bassée and South-West of Altkirch. The Russians tried to advance East of the Masurian Lakes but were forced to withdraw with enormous casualties. 1200 Russians were taken prisoners in minor operations. The German offensive in Poland is taking a normal course.

Rotterdam. "Daily News" reports an attempt by the Germans to cross the Yser on rafts, drawn by motor-boats. The artillery-fire of the allies, however, is said to have been 'too formidable for the light guns of the Germans.

W.T.B. Vermelles, a village south-east of Bethune (France) has been evacuated by the Germans after all remaining buildings had been destroyed. The enemy did not follow. — All reports about a German retreat from the Yser Canal are untrue. — Lodz has been occupied; the Russians are in full retreat.

Vienna. The Russian forces in Western Galicia were attacked from the South by Austrians and Germans, who made 2200 prisoners. 500 more prisoners were taken by the Austrian troops defending Beskil in the Carpathians.

### Turkish Successes.

Constantinople. The Turkish forces in the Caucasus are steadily gaining ground against the Russians. They have occupied Adshara and thrown their flank round to the East of Batum. The Russians retreated towards Ardagan.

Constantinople. Turkish troops have occupied Seda. A small detachment destroyed the electric power station of Batum. An English landing-force was defeated in Southern Mesopotamia.

### Prince Buelow Appointed German Ambassador at Rome.

Berlin. The Imperial Ambassador at Rome, Baron von Flotow has retired on account of ill-health. His successor will be Prince Buelow, late German Imperial Chancellor. Prince Buelow has represented Germany once before at the Tiber and the Princess is an Italian.

### Triple Entente Wooing for Italy.

Rome. The Italian Press publishes regularly cablegrams from London, which are neither issued by the Agenzia Stefani, nor sent by the London correspondents of the papers in question. It is an open secret that this news-service is a skilful propaganda for the Triple Entente. *Avanti* protests against the tone in which the Russian Press urges Italy to take part in the war in favour of the Triple Entente.

### Warsaw Again Threatened.

Copenhagen. Official Russian communiqués take a distinctly pessimistic view of the situation. The Germans are said to have driven the Russians back towards the Bzura. Mentschikoff says in *Novoye Vremje* that Warsaw is again threatened by a German siege.

### Dewet Captured.

Reuter. General Dewet is officially reported to have been taken prisoner by the Government troops under Colonel Brits.

### Arrest of Austrians in Canada.

The Austrian Consul at Cincinnati has warned his countrymen not to travel in railways touching Canadian territory. Four Austrians on a journey from one American station to another have been compelled to leave the train and were arrested, although they were in possession of through-tickets. Mr. Hearst's *Deutsches Journal* characterizes this as the behaviour of a young boy, without education. But Canada is sure to be taught the lesson which she seems to need so badly.

### Russia in Need of Guns.

Sofia. The Russian Government has asked the Bulgarian Government to permit the transport of 300 guns and 200 machine-guns, landed at Dedegatsch, through Bulgarian territory. Bulgaria has refused in spite of Russian threats, for reasons of neutrality. The guns had to be sent back to France. Russia has now arranged for the purchase of 48 batteries in Japan.

### Count Andrassy on the Battle of Homonna.

Count Andrassy retold the story of the Battle of Homonna in the Hungarian House of Representatives. The Count, as Commander of an Automobile Detachment, witnessed, how the Russians put guns in position behind his own Castle: About three Regiments of Cossacks occupied the town of Homonna, stealing whatever they could carry away. Count Andrassy's Castle did not suffer any damage, but all valuables had disappeared along with the Russians. The population of Homonna are now returning to their homes.

### Wounded British Officer as Prisoner in Germany.

Lieutenant Rose-Troup, of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, who was wounded on Oct. 31, and taken prisoner, writing to his mother from Schloss, Celle, Hanover, says:

About twenty wounded men from all sorts of regiments travelled with me on the same train as the German wounded. We were very comfortable in a big covered truck with straw, on which the badly wounded could lie. The Red Cross men were at every station, and gave us coffee and bread and sometimes an excellent soup. At one station at which we had to wait some time one of the Red Cross attendants was the friseur who used to cut my hair at Gross-Lichterfelde-West. We travelled all Sunday night and Monday, and on Tuesday afternoon arrived at Hanover. We then went on to Hameln (Hameln), the famous town of the rat catcher, where there is a big camp for prisoners.

Apparently I had been sent along by an oversight, and should really have been taken to another place reserved for officers, so I was sent down into a little hospital until I could come over here, as Celle is the nearest officers' place. The doctor at this hospital was a civilian, and a most cheerful old chap. All the English soldiers there loved him. They were also attended by Red Cross sisters, who gave them cigarettes. On Wednesday I came on here. This is one of the castles belonging, I believe, to the Duke of Cumberland, and it has the British arms over the gate. I am in a room with three young university men, two from Cambridge and one from London University. There is also a young Russian in the room. There are about 100 prisoners of war here. English about twenty-five, Russians, French, and Belgians. There are generals, admirals, colonels, captains, &c., but they are all in civilian clothes except myself. I am the only officer here who has come from the front.

We are allowed to have extra food sent in from the hotel, and the way the four of us, that is, the three students and myself, manage is as follows: We have a separate breakfast of coffee, rolls, butter, and jam. At midday we have the ordinary meal, which is supplied by the authorities, reinforced by "kuchen mit Schlagzahn," which we buy from the kitchen. In the evening we have a special meal from the hotel. Our bill from the hotel generally comes to 150m a day, and in addition to that we spend about another mark on cakes and coffee. So we get along very well. One of the students lent me 40m when I got here, so I could get some underclothes and other things, as I had only just what I stood up in, having left my haversack and equipment in the trenches.

### Normal Conditions Returning in Occupied Servian Districts.

Serajevo. Large numbers of workmen from Bosnia and Herzegovina have been sent to the Servian districts, occupied by the Austrians. The work of restoration is in full swing in all localities that have suffered through the war. The town of Sabac is gradually beginning to be its old self again. Like in most other Servian towns, which have been conquered, the tradesmen and shopkeepers have either left or else they are too few in number to meet the local exigencies. The military authorities have therefore issued trade-licences to a number of Bosnian firms. The railway-service has been taken over by the Bosnian Provincial Railways.

### Suspension of Magna Charta in England.

The bed-rock of English liberty, the Magna Charta, has been temporarily removed in England and there hardly is at present, a more formidable autocracy in existence, than that of the British Government, bar Russia. For it is not a national Government, but the Government of a Party which cannot claim to possess the confidence of the Opposition nor that of the country even where purely military and naval matters are concerned. If the English nation was really standing behind the Government, the latter would not have to call for the help of subject races and the Labour Party would not hold protest-meetings against compulsory service. These meetings, however, will soon be stopped, for under the new *United Kingdom Defence Act* the liberty of speech is strictly limited and severe punishment is in store for all those, who step beyond these limits. Government may also suppress all criticism, levelled at the "amateur" at the head of the Admiralty, Mr. Winston Churchill. But there will be a great awakening after the war.

H. A. W.

### Interview with the German Crown Prince

by Mr. v. Wiegand of the United Press. Headquarters, Army of German Crown Prince in France, via Namur, Aix-la-Chapelle, and the Hague (received November 30).

"This is a stupid, senseless, unnecessary war—a war not wanted by Germany, I can assure you, but forced upon us: a war which it was our highest duty to anticipate by all proper preparation, in order to defend the Fatherland against the ring which our enemies had long been welding to crush us. And the fact that we were so effectually prepared for defence—which is now used as an argument to convince the world that we wanted this war—is being cited as proof that we were responsible for it."

These are the words of Crown Prince Wilhelm. I arrived at the headquarters of the Fifth Army by automobile at night and in a heavy downpour of rain.

"His Imperial Highness wishes to greet you, but he will talk to you later, as he is now preparing to go into the field," said Major Edler von der Planitz, personal aide-de-camp of the Crown Prince, and a splendid type of the German officer, when I presented myself the following morning at the small French villa occupied by the commander of the Fifth Army and his immediate staff. It is an unpretentious dwelling of fifteen rooms. Like the other officers, the Crown Prince uses only one of these.

In a few minutes the Crown Prince entered the drawing-room, and immediately after the introduction Major von der Planitz retired, leaving us alone. His Imperial Highness was attired as usual in simple field uniform bearing his insignia of Lieutenant-General; and with no decorations save the black and white ribbon of the Iron Cross. He wore no sword, but in his hand he twirled a short swagger-stick similar to those carried by English Army officers.

"I am very pleased to see you," said he. "I hope you will find in my army much to interest you. You may go wherever you like."

"I hope your Imperial Highness will pardon my very imperfect German," I said. "Well then, let's talk English, he replied smilingly."

We immediately began discussing the war.

### "No Choice"

"I am a soldier, and therefore I cannot discuss the politics of it; but Germany was left no choice in the matter. From the lowest to the highest we people of Germany know that we are fighting for our existence. Others may say the same, but that does not alter the fact. We are one grand unit imbued with a truly magnificent spirit of self-sacrifice. You will never be able to convince the German people that this war was not engineered wholly for the purpose of crushing Germany."

He gave me the impression that, like 99 per cent. of the Germans, he holds England chiefly responsible. But he did not display the evidences of hatred and bitterness which prevail in so many circles, high and low, in Germany. "But," he added, "it was a great surprise to me, as to many others in Germany, that America, to which we are bound by ties of friendship and blood as to no other neutral country, where millions of our people have gone to make their homes, should prove itself so incapable of putting itself in our place—not to have seen our position, surrounded by enemies, as the German people saw it; not to show a better understanding of the German people in their unexampled sacrifices in this gigantic struggle to save Fatherland. However, I have faith in the sense of justice of the American people when once thoroughly they come to appreciate our situation."

"Tell me what is said about me in America," he added slowly. Then, observing some slight hesitation on my part, he interjected, "I like frankness and truth."

"Your Imperial Highness has been much misrepresented—or misrepresented," I said, "as a war agitator, head of the war party, and general exponent of militarism."

"The English say I steal."

"Yes, I know," he replied, "and the English Press says even more. It says I steal"—with a shake of his head. "Really, do people believe such things of me? Do they think me capable of stealing or of permitting my soldiers to loot French homes? It is simply incredible what the English papers print about me and about our side of the war. Let's see: how many times have I committed suicide or been wounded since the war started? Why, only a day or so ago I was supposed to have been defeated on the Russian frontier. All these things would

be very amusing to me if I did not know that the public mind is thereby misled. As to being a war agitator I am truly sorry that people don't know me better. There is no war party now in Germany—nor has there ever been."

When I told him it was reported that the Russians had nearly captured the Kaiser in the vicinity of Warsaw the Crown Prince laughed heartily. "I must tell father that," he said. "He will enjoy it."

He paid a high tribute to the bravery of the French, their fighting qualities, and their leadership. "The French soldier is surpassed by none for bravery," he said. "He fights splendidly individually and in every respect is the equal of our own troops in intelligence, and in some ways he is quicker. He is more agile, but he is a defensive fighter and lacks the dogged determination and staying power of our troops when it comes to storming a position or other offensive moves. As to the French leadership, events have shown that it has been excellent and it commands our admiration."

After half an hour's talk the Crown Prince joined his staff, which had been waiting outside, and rode away.

### Scandinavia and the Russification of Finland.

The Scandinavian Press comments very strongly upon the Ucase of the Tsar, by which the doom of Finland's independence is sealed. *Uga Dagligt Allehanda* calls this Ucase an unheard-of attack against helpless Finland. The whole structure of civilization, built up in Finland by Swedish initiative and Swedish power in the course of Centuries and defended by generations of the best of the Swedish nation with their life-blood, has now been thrown into the crucible of Muscovitism. *Stockholms Dagblad* says the program of Russification for Finland is gaining in interest, if compared with the manifesto issued to the Poles and the population of Galicia by Grandduke Nicholas. This manifesto and the Finnish program throw a very clear light upon the conception of national autonomy under the Russian sway. — The Norwegian Press vies with that of Sweden in condemning the Imperial Ucase. *Dagbladet* asks: What will the English Liberals say? Soon after the war a manifesto was issued promising fullest freedom and independence to Poland. This promise has not met with greatest appreciation especially in England, where the Liberals had looked upon the alliance with autocratic Russia with a certain amount of suspicion. Russia now seemed to meet half way the English Liberals, who had made the case of the small nations their own. British authors were already picturing a happy future after the war: Freedom and independence for Poland and Finland. The last Ucase, giving Finland not the freedom of which she dreamt, but union with Russia, will therefore make a very queer impression in England.

### Where is the "Australia"?

The Australian Government has had no news of the battle-cruiser *Australia* for some time. It is feared that the ship has been lost in the open sea through an explosion.

### German Bravery.

Corporal A.G. Reid, A.S.C., who is now at home wounded, writing to his brother-in-law at Redhill, describes how a mass of Germans "marched on to destruction," singing at the same time their national song. He says:

I saw it stated in a letter that the Germans were not brave. Don't you believe it. They face rifle fire and snarapel in a manner which you can't help but admire. They are not cowards. I am telling you what I know personally and have seen.

It was only last week I saw such a sight. I shall never forget it. I was at a place just behind our trenches when a whole corps of Germans made for us. Mind you, they did not come in a mad rush, but they stepped out as if out for a long march. They sang their national song lustily, and must have known, as they were so thickly massed, they were marching on to destruction. But they came on, and our chaps were awaiting them with glee. Not a shot was fired until they got so close that it was impossible to miss them.

Then the order was given, and didn't our rifles and maxims speak! Of course, they fell in their hundreds, but there was no wavering. It was amazing. Hundreds stepped into their places, and the ranks closed again. They still came on, only to fall, and this kind of fighting went on for some time until they realised that even numbers can't take British trenches in this fashion.

### Vienna During the War.

The Burgomaster of Vienna has now issued his fourth statement on the economic situation in the Austrian Capital. The report deals with the result of the War Loan and repudiates the assertions made in the hostile Press, that pressure had been brought to bear against the population to secure a satisfactory result of the issue. Neither in Vienna nor in Lower Austria (the Province in which Vienna is situated) has there been any need of such an influence. The whole population, of whatever nationality or social standing—from the members of the Imperial family downwards to the man with a small savings-bank account—is anxious to contribute to the financial necessities of national defence.

The first batch of civilian prisoners of war, who have been released from captivity in France, have returned home in November. Almost all of them are without any means and almost all speak with horror of the disgraceful and the revolting brutalities under which they had to suffer even from the French authorities. Their reports will be taken down and published in order to show on which side the "Barbarians" stand.

Economic conditions in general are very favourable considering that the war has already lasted four months. From August 1st to November 15th, no less than 110,000 pledges have been redeemed at the pawnbrokers' for which 2,4 Million Kronen had to be repaid. The number of sewing- and work-rooms for women has risen to 40, in which about 6700 women and girls are occupied with needle-work for the soldiers. Wages up to 20 Kronen a week have been paid out.

Tourist traffic, as measured by the number of visitors in Vienna hotels, has perceptibly grown since August. During the first fortnight of the month (later figures are not available yet) the provision of articles of food was abundant. The marketing of the large number of cattle was due to the demand by preserved food factories. The decrease of exports caused a rise in the number of sheep offered in the markets.

The general state of health is reported to be satisfactory by the Medical officers. Only two cases of cholera have occurred among the civil population. The statement made by the *Times* that an analysis has proved Danube water to contain bacilli of cholera is an absurdity.

### Cabinet-Crisis in Servia and Portugal

The Pasitic Cabinet in Servia has resigned and M. Pasitic has been asked to form a new ministry. *Daily Mail* publishes a message from Lisbon to the effect that rumours are current about an impending change in the Government.

### What Australia Will Not Hear.

Australia is already flattering Russian Allies by copying the Tsar's methods of suppressing the expression of opinion with which it does not agree. In the issue of the *Socialist* of Melbourne—just to hand, many columns of matter have been blotted out, including a number of passages from an article by Mr. Keir Hardie, M. P. reproduced from the *Labour Leader*. The paragraphs in Mr. Hardie's article which the Australian Censor would not allow the citizens of the Commonwealth to read were as follows:

I.

It is not yet three years ago since Great Britain and Russia signed a solemn agreement which they published to the world to uphold and maintain the integrity of Persia, and before the ink was dry on the document Russian troops were pouring over the border into the North of Persia. Their march was marked by their unspeakable and unnameable outrages against men, women, and children. Every Persian who showed any love for his country and its independence was shot or hanged, and often foully outraged. The cries and tears of ravaged women and orphaned children went up to high heaven in despair, and England, with its alleged love of the independence of small nations, stood by silent, and thereby connived at the destruction of Persian liberty. It is the hypocrisy of the thing that burns in one's heart. Are not the rights and liberties of Persia as dear to her people as those of Belgium, and if we are prepared to go to war to preserve the rights and liberties of smaller nations, why have we gone hand and glove with Russia in destroying the liberties of Persia?

II.

Freedom-loving France is compelled to go to the aid of the most reactionary and blood-stained Government that probably the world has ever known (Russian).

## The Chancellor's Speech.

Last Thursday's extraordinary session of the Reichstag has been rendered historical by Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg's impressive address of which the following is an extract:

"Gentlemen, His Majesty the Emperor from his army post has commissioned me to convey to this assembly with which he feels united until death in a common solicitude for the Fatherland his best wishes and cordial greetings. At the same time I am to express to the entire nation His Majesty's thanks for the unexampled sacrifice and devotion, for the tremendous labour that has been performed both, at the front and at home by all of our people. We of the Reichstag give our first thought to the Emperor, the army, the navy, to the men who upon land and sea are fighting for the honor and greatness of the Empire. With pride, with unbroken trust we look to them, but in the same spirit we look upon our Austro-Hungarian allies who with proven valour are helping us to wage great struggle. Recently we have been joined by a new ally who knows quite well that the downfall of the German cause would imply the loss of his own political independence—the **Osman Empire**. Even though our opponents have gathered against us a mighty coalition, I trust that before long they will have learned that the arm of our plucky allies pierces to the weak spots of their world position. On the 4th of August the Reichstag gave utterance to the whole nation's inflexible will to take up the compulsory fight and to defend our independence to the last. Great things have been done since then. But the resistance of our enemies has not yet been broken. We have not reached the end of our sacrifices but will continue with the same heroism as heretofore for we must and shall carry to its good issue, the struggle for justice and freedom which we are waging, with foes pressing all around us. We shall remember, also the injuries inflicted upon our defenceless compatriots living abroad, which injuries were a mockery upon civilization, for Gentlemen, the world shall know that no one shall dare with impunity to hurt as much, as a hair of a German subject.

The responsibility for this greatest of all wars is clearly established. It is borne firstly by those men in Russia who brought about the mobilisation of the entire Russian army.

The real responsibility, however rests upon Great Britain. The English cabinet could have prevented this war by clearly announcing to St. Petersburg, England's unwillingness to let a great continental war grow out of the Austro-Serbian differences. England knew of the machinations of a small war-thirsty group surrounding the Tsar. England saw the trend of events but did nothing to stop it. In spite of all pacific assurances London gave St. Petersburg to understand that it stood on the side of France and Russia. This stands and irrefutably through the publications of the different Ministries and by the English Blue Book itself.

Right through to last summer the statesmen of England have repeatedly announced in Parliament that no treaty, no understanding, no alliance would hamper the free determinations of England in the event of a war. Unbound England could decide whether or not she would participate in such a war. Therefore it was no fraternal duty, no compulsion, nor a case of one's own country being threatened, that forced the English statesmen into this war. Only one conclusion remained, England promoted this tremendous world-war because she thought she saw her opportunity to destroy, with the co-operation of her entente partners the vitality of her greatest commercial rival. So England and Russia bear the responsibility for this world war.

And the Belgian neutrality which England professed to protect is a mask. At seven o'clock on the eve of August 2nd we sent word to Brussels that the French war plans, which were known to us were forcing us to march through Belgium for the sake of our self-preservation. During the afternoon of the 2nd of August, that is to say before our diplomatic step in Brussels was known or could have been known, England had unconditionally promised France her support in the event of an attack upon the French coast by the German fleet. Nothing was said of Belgian neutrality. That fact is established by the statements made by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons on the 3rd of August, and which were not yet known to me on the 4th. of August; this fact is confirmed by the English Blue Book itself.

When on the 4th. of August I spoke here of the act we were committing, by our entry into Belgium it was not certain whether in the hour of pressure the Brussels Government would not consent to spare the country and retire to Antwerp under protest. Now that it has been established from the documents found in Brussels how and to what extent Belgium had waived her neutrality in favor of England, all the world gathers knowledge of two facts. 1st, when during the night from 3rd. to 4th. August, our troops marched into Belgium, they were in a country that had long before discarded its own neutrality, and 2nd the fact is established that England has not declared war upon us because of the Belgian

neutrality, which she herself had violated, but because she thought that in conjunction with two great continental military powers she would be able to crush us. Now that all the details of the Anglo-Belgian plan of war have been disclosed, the policy of the English statesmen is branded for all times in the eyes of history.

Gentlemen, when I was called to this post five years ago, the Triple Entente, firmly grounded, was facing the Triple Alliance. A creation of England's it was, destined to carry on England's policy recognized since centuries, viz, to oppose the strongest then-existing continental power. That situation, from the very outset, constituted the aggressive character of the Triple Entente, as compared with the purely defensive significance of the Triple Alliance, for a nation of the greatness and capacity of ours will not willingly allow itself to be enmeshed. In view of this political situation German policy was clearly definable. We had to try, by understandings with the individual nations forming the Entente, to prevent the danger of war; at the same time, we had to strengthen our armaments in such a way, that in the event of a war we should be strong enough to meet the situation. You know that we have done both.

England possessed comparatively speaking the greatest freedom of action, as confirmed so often by her statesmen in Parliament. In England if nowhere else an understanding could be sought, which would actually have secured the peace of the world. On that basis I had to act, and I did act on it. The path was narrow; I knew that well. The insular English trend of thought has, in the course of centuries fostered a certain political principle which has become an immovable dogma, namely that the arbitration of the world is England's office, which can only be maintained by the uncontested rule of the sea and the much-quoted balance of power on the continent. I have never tried to do away with that ancient English principle, by argumentative persuasion. What did seem possible to me was that in view of Germany's great economic development, the growing chance of differences with us might make England comprehend that the principle maintained so long as English policy, had become obsolete and impracticable, and that a peaceful understanding with Germany was preferable. But the dogma had rooted so firmly that all attempts at a positive agreement were for naught. A fresh stimulus was given to the negotiations by the crisis of 1911. All of a sudden the English people woke up to the fact that they had been standing on the precipice of a European war. Under compulsion of popular sentiment, English statesmen were willing to draw closer to Germany. Long and laborious work resulted in fixing up agreements with regard to mutual economic interest, chiefly concerning the Orient and Africa, all of which was done in order to reduce the chances for political friction.

The world is large and there is space enough for the free development of both nations, if such development is not hampered or hemmed in. That is the principle upon which our policy has been based. But, Gentlemen, while we were thus negotiating, England was hard at work to further cement her relations with France and Russia. In that respect the decisive factor was that, England overstepping the boundary line of politics, made military agreements for the event of a continental war. The situation can be summed up in the observation that while England was ready to come to an understanding upon individual questions, the leading principle of England's policy was: *Germany's development and strength must be checked by the balance of power. That is the boundary line for friendly relations with Germany. Germany must be kept down.* We often warned the British Government. As recently as the beginning of last July, I had it pointed out to England that I was in possession of information re secret negotiations with Russia concerning a naval convention. I pointed out the serious dangers to a universal peace, arising from such English policy. A bare fortnight later my prediction came true. When the war broke out England cast aside all pretence loudly and openly she announced: England will fight until Germany is crushed economically and from a military standpoint Pan-Slavic hatred of Germany jubilantly applauds. France with the whole strength of an ancient martial people hopes to make amends for the failure of 1870. Gentlemen, we have only one reply to give to our enemies: **Germany cannot be destroyed.**

Just as our military strength, so has our financial strength stood every test. Our economic life has been maintained. People out of employment are relatively scarce; German resourcefulness and skill of organisation keeps on finding fresh methods to meet all obstacles and repairing losses. No man or woman shirks voluntary co-operation, no recruiting need be done. And all strive for the one great purpose: to sacrifice blood and substance for the land of our fathers, for the hopes of our children and grand-children. A spirit and a moral greatness of the people has been revealed,

such as history has never before known. If such boundless sacrifice on the part of our people, in arms against a world of foes is branded as militarism, if they call us Huns and Barbarians, if they spread damnable lies all over the globe we have sufficient pride not to grieve. This wonderful spirit glowing in the heart of all Germany, as one man, and this absolute mutual devotion is bound to emerge with victory. When a glorious and happy peace will be our reward, we shall do homage to that spirit, as being the most sacred inheritance of these earnest and great times.

We shall continue until we have the guaranty that no one shall again disturb our peace, a peace which shall be devoted to the cultivation of German worth and German strength, and enjoyed by a free people.

### Secret English Documents regarding Belgium another valuable find.

There are further accumulations of facts to prove that prior to the war, England in conjunction with the Belgian government had made complete preparations for war against Germany. Recently our troops located and seized certain secret Military text-books compiled by the English War department, and bearing the title: Belgium, Road and River Reports, prepared by the General Staff, War office. The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung has in its possession the four volumes of this work, of which Volume I was printed as early as 1912, Volume II in 1913, and Volumes III and IV in 1914. They are carefully labelled as follows:

"Confidential—this book is the property of the British government, and is intended for the personal information of — who is strictly responsible for the safe keeping of this book. Only authorised persons are allowed to make use of the contents."

The text-books contain the most detailed descriptions of the land areas from a military stand-point. The introduction is as follows. "These reports describe the highways, at the time of observation. It is highly advisable to ascertain prior to the time of their being used that the roads are not blocked on account of repairs, laying of pipes etc. etc."

In volume I, beginning with page 130, there is a description of the great highway, Nieupoort — Dexmuiden — Ypern — Menin — Tourcoing — Tournai based on physical condition, grades, tactical considerations such as observation points and adjacent water-ways and is illuminated with maps. The various villages and towns along the route are enumerated and described together with distances from one point to another, and one also finds detailed reports of the entire system of connecting roads, and their grades, also all bridges railroad crossings, telephone and telegraph stations, and railroad depots. In this latter connection is given the length of the platforms for both passengers and freight and as record of narrow gauge lines petroleum tanks etc. etc. Invariably mention is made whether the population talk French entirely or only in part.

To enlighten our readers, still further, we quote literally the following concerning the tactical observation about Dixmuiden, appearing in page 151.

"Dixmuiden would be difficult to take, if attacked from the north or south. The best positions for defence from the south, are west of the railroad as far as the highway, and east of the highway in the series of small hills. To the west of the highway the firing range is clear for 1500 yards, and east of the highway, the outlook is cut off by the growth of trees. A defensive force of two battalions would be sufficient. The enemy would no doubt place his artillery at Hoogmoelen and Veerikant. Otherwise nothing is there of tactical importance, or that would impede the marching of the troops.

Observation points are the mills at Reencheek with unbroken views and the Koelberg 7½ miles from Ypern with outlook to the east and south." In addition to this, the church-towers are mentioned as excellent observation points. In an equally detailed manner the entire area drained by the Scheldt river and its tributaries is described, with careful mention of all villages, landing places, ferries, with data as to the width and depth of the streams, also details concerning bridges, enumeration of available boats etc. etc.

As compiled, these volumes serve as a complete military guide for the staff officers, as well for the commanders of any other rank. They include also the following subjects:

I. A tabulation of districts and villages, giving their available capacity for the quartering of troops, the extent and nature of railroad facilities, and all other information that the officers in charge of each local division would require.

II. Plans to guide aviators in Belgium, south of the line joining Charleroi, Namur and Liège, also for the section surrounding Brussels.

This most carefully compiled military guide book, covering its subjects with painstaking detail and supplemented with maps of all harbors and landing places, is stamped confidential, and is dated

July 1914.—Aside from the actual process of printing, it is a physical impossibility for these manuals to have originated shortly before or since the war commenced, in fact statements gleaned from various chapters prove that the geographic and tactical material of these books was worked up since 1909. The first volume was printed in 1912.

Thus is demonstrated that for five years the most precise and comprehensive plans were in the making for a military campaign in neutral Belgium. These books are simply the secret military regulations for an English army operating in Belgium. The British war office for a long time has been engaged on such preparations, and in connection therewith, undertook the laborious task of compiling these military manuals. To accomplish this, the assistance and widest latitude on the part of the Belgian civil and military authorities was an absolute necessity.

Such exhaustive reports of a tactical and strategic nature, and such exact data regarding the entire Belgian railway and traffic systems, also the references to rolling stock, and locks and bridges would otherwise be unobtainable.

Especially the information concerning the capacity of the various settlements in furnishing quarters for the soldiers, could emanate only from the Belgian government. There can be no question that its official records were thus placed at the service of the English war office, and in many instances these records were simply translated and made part of these English manuals. While Peace was still prevailing, England and Belgium agreed to co-operate on military lines, so that from a political as well as from a military stand-point, Belgium was actually under the vassalage of Great Britain.

England's indignation as advertised to the whole world, on account of Germany's alleged breach of neutrality is as empty as unwarranted when England is faced with these incriminating documents. The Germans are the people who have righteous cause for resentment and they should be joined in this by all other nations, who have been deceived by the mis-statements coming from official English sources and from the English press.

### Italian Admiration of German-Austrian Armies.

Rome. The military correspondent of *Italia* holds the opinion that the advance of the Germans and Austrians in Poland has made good progress. The strong re-inforcements necessary for this movement could not have come from the Western front. Everyone must ask himself where Germany gets her inexhaustible reserves from; not only reserves of men, but also reserves of materials necessary for the formation of new army-corps. Germany has trebled the number of her army-corps since the out-break of war. *Perseveranza*, thinks that the German offensive was not undertaken with the object of preparing a general advance, but only in order to give the German troops more breathing space. It is evident, that the Russian successes were not the result of splendid manoeuvring, but were only obtained by sheer numerical superiority. Germany and Austria will have a million fresh troops by January. Everybody must have the greatest sympathy for a nation like Germany.

### A Victim of French Cruelty.

Vienna. Among a number of Austrian women detained in France since the beginning of the war, and who have now been released, was a woman from Hungary, who had to be left at Hall, as her state prevented her from continuing her journey home. The woman, who died soon afterwards, had been ill-treated in France in the most cruel way in spite of her precarious state of health. Her death was the direct result of the brutalities of the French. Many of the other women, some of them with children declared, it would have been impossible to stand the inhumane treatment any longer. They were glad to have at least escaped with their lives. Very few of them knew what had become of their husbands, no even if they were still alive.

### England Confiscates Warships.

Copenhagen. *Politiken* is informed that the English Government is going to confiscate two battle-ships, built at Messrs. Armstrong's for Norway. The vessels were to be delivered in December and January respectively.

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