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Every  
Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday

# The Continental Times

## Special War Edition

Every  
Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1914. ROTTERDAM LUCERNE BERLIN GENEVA VIENNA ROME

No. 1065. Vol. XX. No. 73.

**War News.**

W.T.B. December 21st. French attacks at Nieuport have been repulsed. Between Richebourg-le-Avoué and the Canal d'Aire-à-la-Bassée, the Germans took the English and Indian trenches by assault. 270 English and Indians, including 10 officers, were made prisoners; one gun, 5 machine-guns and 2 mine throwers captured. A trench at Notre Dame de Lorette, which had been lost on December 18th, was re-taken. The French took the offensive near Souain-Massiges, but their attack broke down in the German fire, 4 officers and 310 men were taken prisoners. An important position in the Argonne was stormed by the Germans; 275 prisoners were made, 3 machine-guns and one mitrailleuse captured. French attacks near Verdun were checked. The situation in East- and West-Prussia remains unchanged. The German offensive in Poland is continuing.

W.T.B. December 22nd. At Nieuport and Ypres things were generally quiet. English and French tried to re-take the positions at Festubert and Givenchy, lost on December 20th. They only succeeded at Richebourg. French attacks at Albert, Compiègne, Souain, Perthes and at Verdun were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy's forces. Several French trenches were taken in the Argonne. The situation in East- and West-Prussia remains unchanged. German Armies in Poland are engaged in severe fighting at the Bzura and Rawka, which are already crossed at many places. The battle at the Pilica is as yet undecided.

Vienna, December 21st. The Austrian advance in the Carpathians is progressing favourably in the Latorca district. Fighting is continuing at Krosno-Tuchow and at the Dunajetz River.

Vienna, December 22nd. The Russians in Galicia returned to the offensive again, but without effect. Before Przemyśl fighting still continues.

Christiania, December 21st. A German Zeppelin airship has thrown 19 bombs over Warsaw, on December 19th destroying 2 buildings. 90 people have been killed and 50 wounded. The next day German aeroplanes appeared and threw bombs.

Cologne, December 22nd. *Cologne Gazette* reports a successful flight across the Channel to Dover by the German First Lieutenant von Prodzynski. The airman threw several bombs, one of which is said to have fallen on the Harbour Railway Station.

**Value of French Territory Occupied by Germans.**

Geneva, December 22nd. The Paris *Temps* says: According to reports by the Statistical Society, the French territory occupied by the Germans has a population of 3,250,000 or 8.2 per cent of the total population of France. The value of the ground of these districts is about 400 million francs; the agricultural buildings must be valued at 1100 millions; factories 1500 millions; business houses 1200 millions; dwelling houses 5500 millions; machinery etc. 1000 millions. The total value of the occupied districts amounts to about 14,500 millions.

**Numerical Superiority of British Fleet at the Falkland Islands.**

Private reports from South America state that the British Squadron which fought the German Cruiser Squadron at the Falklands Island, consisted of the *Invincible*, *Canopus*, *Carnarvon*, *Cornwall*, *Kent*, *Glasgow* and *Bristol*. Tonnage and armament would give these cruisers a superiority of 200 per cent over the 5 German cruisers, but there were also Japanese ships present, for the British Admiralty has congratulated the Japanese upon their joint victory.

**Austria-Hungary's Slay Troops.**

Vienna, December 22nd. The absurd reports about desertions of Austrian-Hungarian detachments of Slav nationality which are spread abroad are as fictitious as are those of unrest at Vienna, Prague and Budapest. With reference to the first the best proof implied the unpleasant experiences of the allies when meeting our troops. As regards the latter allegation, evidence given by neutrals who live in Austria-Hungary and who are full of admiration for the wonderful conduct of the population, show that normal conditions prevail at Vienna, Prague and Budapest and that business activity in particular has increased extraordinarily on account of the Christmas Holydays. Reports about cases of mutiny in the Austro-Hungarian Army are evidently invented for the purpose of counteracting the impression which has been caused by the authentic reports of the Austro-Hungarian Military authorities about the great number of deserters from the Serbian and Russian armies.

**The Negotiations Between Austria-Hungary and Serbia.**

Austro-Hungary's Patience with a Government of Criminals. Three Weeks of Negotiations, Not Rash, Harsh Demands, as British Press Lies Have Told Us.

By Dr. Nicholas de Pavolsky.

The following letter, which appeared in the Evening Post is selected as an introduction:

Why the Original Ultimatum? To the Editor of the Evening Post: Sir: We have had abundant explanations, both official and from self-appointed spokesmen, of the reasons why each Power had to go to war with the rest. But I do not remember seeing any statement giving the German or Austrian view of the reasons why the initial demand on Serbia had to be made in the form of an ultimatum without preliminary negotiation, so that no time was allowed for such discussion as is the ordinary method for averting war. I am persuaded that nothing did more to set American public opinion against the Germans and Austrians at the start than this fact; and few things would do more to set the German side right with the American public than a satisfactory account of the necessity for this precipitateness.

Steven T. BYINGTON, Ballard Vale, Mass.

Have the newspapers answered the questions in this letter?

Many people appear to be under the impression, that the Austro-Hungarian Government came together some fine afternoon, and, having nothing better to do, decided to send a little Ultimatum to Serbia, which country, in her turn, was greatly surprised, having heard nothing of any ill feeling on the part of Austria-Hungary, when she received the Ultimatum by special delivery.

Mr. Byington's ignorance of what happened before the Ultimatum was sent is deplorable, but a natural consequence of the way the American press is managed. He is one of the many thousands of us who read the headlines on the first page, and such items as interest them especially, perhaps the baseball reports or the financial page. The rest of the family pay close attention to the divorce trials and the doings of the different "sets" who are spending the money their fathers made more or less honestly in vulgar amusements.

We Americans are so busy that we know practically nothing of European affairs. Our press feeds us with backstairs gossip, silly cartoons, and little else. The newspapers are altogether too big. They contain too much trash. The enquirer (Mr. Byington) did not read anything about the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, until the details actually appeared on the first page under a scare-head. He does not know that the investigation started after the frightful murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife was not ended in the American way, i. e., by a coroner's jury giving a verdict of "Killed by persons unknown." He did not read, partly because many American papers did not print it at all, and partly because he overlooks items without three-inch headlines, that the Austrian authorities had discovered the following facts:

The murderers of the Archduke and his wife had been hired by high Officials in the service of the Serbian Government; they had been furnished with bombs and pistols by high Serbian Army Officers who also gave them lessons in the use of the weapons; the Serbian Officials on the Austro-Hungarian border had been given instructions by their superiors to furnish them with passes and other papers facilitating their trip to Serajewo, and the papers found on the prisoners showed that they were even told where to place themselves in order not to miss the chance. He does not know that indications point strongly to the fact that Prince George of Serbia was the real head of the whole damnable conspiracy.

Your friend and many other readers do not know this, because our newspapers are too much taken up with the important question as to who is going to win the pennant or some sensational murder trial. Because the newspapers are filled with trivial and unimportant articles, they did not give the above highly valuable information, which finally culminated in a world war. The editors of the newspapers themselves did not understand that this murder was of a very important nature, and did not pay much attention to it. Most of them probably did not know where Serajewo

was situated, and had only a dim recollection that Serbia was somewhere in the Southeast of Europe. But Serbia, small as it may be, has a standing army, which, if situated on our borders, could march through the United States.

Now what did Austria-Hungary do? She offered to give to Serbia the whole material collected during the investigation. She asked Serbia to bring the conspirators to trial and to punish them; she demanded that the societies which openly declared that it was their aim to foment revolution in Austro-Hungarian territory be dissolved, and that teachers in the Serbian public schools should not be allowed to tell their pupils in regular courses of instruction that it was their duty to attack Austro-Hungary by all means at their command. In addition, Austria, fearing that the Serbian authorities would shield the conspirators, asked to be permitted to be represented during the preliminary investigation, corresponding about to the kind of judicial inquiry before a magistrate and sometimes called in this country a John Doe proceeding. Considering the evidence which Austria possessed, the Austrian demands were mild.

What did Serbia do? Her Prime Minister immediately went to St. Petersburg and asked for instructions. He was told to reject the Austrian demands, and did so in a roundabout way, stating that Serbia could never permit another power to try Serbian subjects in Serbian courts. But this had never been proposed, on the contrary Austria-Hungary wanted to be represented at the preliminary inquiry only, not at the trial. She wanted to make sure that the truth became known, and nothing else. This Serbia would not allow to happen, and therefore delayed the matter for fully three weeks. In the meantime Russia started the mobilization of her whole army, against Germany as well as Austria. Only when these facts became known, Austria sent the Ultimatum, at the same time notifying the Czar, that she intended to punish Serbia, but would guarantee not to take one square inch of her territory. Could Austria be expected to say less?

Perhaps your friend and a few other Americans will now understand that the initial demands were not made in haste or in the form of an Ultimatum, and that long preliminary negotiations took place. However, the interval was used by Serbia and Russia to get their troops ready for the war they wanted. It may be added that at least two of the Serbian officials who have been clearly proven to have been the instigators of the murder, have been promoted by the Serbian government.

A most interesting phase of this incident is the position the enquirer (Mr. Byington) takes. He has not read or heard anything of the long drawn out negotiations between Austria-Hungary and Serbia and comes to the conclusion that they did not take place. "What I do not know, does not exist" is the peculiar state of mind of many a reader; what he sees in his newspaper he believes, and what they do not print, has, of course, not happened. — *Vital Issue.*

**In Case of Invasion****Lord Durham's Advice to the People.**

The Earl of Durham, Lord Lieutenant of the county from which he takes his title, has issued a proclamation with regard to the precautionary measures which have been arranged to safeguard the civilian population in the event of invasion. He points out that while such an attack is regarded as neither imminent nor probable, the contingency should not be ignored.

A system, he says, has been established throughout the county whereby police, assisted by special constables appointed for the purpose, will instruct inhabitants whether it is deemed advisable to leave any particular district, and, if so, by what means and what direction they shall proceed in the event of such occurrence. It is the duty of the inhabitants to follow the instructions of the police and make themselves conversant with directions issued beforehand.

Lord Durham hopes if it is necessary to issue orders that the instructions will be adhered to with coolness and courage, and that the people will do nothing to hamper any action by the military authorities.

**A Messenger of Good-Will: Santa Claus O'Laughlin.**

Munich. The Bavarian Government and the city of Munich paid high honors to the American children in the person of their representative, John Callan O'Laughlin, who arrived here last week and became the guest of the Foreign Office Under-Secretary of State, Baron von Lutz, took charge of him and conducted him to the German Museum where the president of that wonderful institution, Oscar von Miller, led him through that unique "University of the People". At noon von Lutz presented him to the King and Queen. Their Majesties spoke in the highest terms of the sympathetic action of the American children. "Tell them", said the King, that the German people fully realize all the love and sympathy which lies behind what they have done. It touches every German heart and is in keeping with what might be expected of your countrymen". The audience over, Mr. O'Laughlin was received at the Rathaus by Lord Mayor William von Borscht, and a number of leading men of the State Department, the Red Cross Society, the City Council and several representative Americans. The long table was covered with fresh flowers and decorated with the Bavarian and American flags, while in the balcony were 150 children from the Public Schools, led by an efficient choir master, and supported by a male choir and a splendid orchestra. Many an eye became moist when the clear voices sang the old time Christmas carols. At the banquet eloquent speeches were made by the Lord Mayor and also by the President of the Bavarian Red Cross Society. His Honor the Mayor in his speech said:

The thought of equipping and sending to Europe a large ship with Christmas presents to the children of fallen heroes, irrespective of nationality, surely ranks among the noblest and highest things that brotherly love, so richly manifested in this world's war, has brought forth. The ready consent and good will with which this idea was at once taken up in your country Mr. O'Laughlin, fills our hearts with greatest satisfaction. What must ever be the highest reward for you, Mr. O'Laughlin, is the feeling that you have caused infinite joy by appearing as a Christmas angel, that countless tears have been dried, that untold suffering has been alleviated by you. I consider it a special honor to give expression to this sentiment in the name of the first German city which you enter as the messenger of a charitable mission of peace and to be granted the privilege of assuring you of that high appreciation and sympathy with which we accept your great donation of charity. I beg of you to accept our deepest, sincerest thanks for what you have done and to convey these, our feelings, also to your friends and all those who so generously assisted you.

The hope of every nation is based upon its youth and the education it receives, upon the spirit in which its heart and mind are formed. Happy the people in which there lives a spirit of which you, dear Sir, are the worthy representative. When, as we are convinced, the rising generation of your country grows up in this spirit, then your mighty country will march on towards a splendid future and will derive the richest blessing from these gifts, which in the name of the American children, you have given to the poor children of the warring countries.

With sincere admiration our eyes are directed to the President of the United States whose wisdom and justice uphold the strength of the American people and its wonderful development, and whose foremost care is the reestablishment of peace.

His Excellency von Landmann spoke in behalf of the Red Cross and said in part: "The American Red Cross Hospital here demonstrated how America is ever ready to relieve distress. A new proof of this is furnished by the arrival of the Christmas-ship. The Bavarian branch considers it a high honor to distribute the contents of the numerous boxes and thousands of grateful hearts will bless and remember the gentle givers."

Mr. O'Laughlin replied that he felt happy to be in the world-renowned capital of Bavaria, where the big German heart is pulsing in friendship for America and American children. "Here is the true home of Christmas and the 'Christ-kind'; here the children are nourished by love and can best understand the message of love brought from America."

He then related the development of the movement and turning to the choir said: "The possibility that you and others may sustain the loss of father or brother has filled the hearts of Americans with sorrow and they trust that Peace on Earth and Good-Will to Men may soon return."

**American Christmas Gifts for Berlin War Orphans.**

There was a very quaint setting last Friday afternoon at the reception of Mr. John Callan O'Laughlin, the American Father Christmas, by the representatives of the City of Berlin. Chief-Burgomaster Wermuth and Burgomaster Reicke, the Chairman of the Town-Council, Mr. Michlet, his deputy, Privy Councillor Cassel, and several members of the Council were the official Committee of reception. Countess Brockdorff and Fräulein von Gersdorf represented the German Empress and the Crown-Princess, and the American Ambassador and Mrs. Gerard, Consul-General Mr. Lay, the Italian Ambassador and Mrs. Bollati were prominent among the guests. But around these important personages there were gathered hundreds of boys and girls of Berlin, bearing small American, German and Berlin flags, to extend their welcome to the Ambassador of the Children of America. And in the front row, among the grown-up people sat, as fitted the occasion, the three eldest sons of the German Crown Prince, dressed in white sailors suits.

When Mr. O'Laughlin arrived, he was cordially greeted by the Chief-Burgomaster. Addressing the audience in German, His Excellency said:

"The United States of America are sending us a friendly message and a beautiful gift. The message comes from a country of peace, where this year's Christmas calls forth the old, joyous sentiments among the children. But we, to whom this message is sent, have a Christmas of a different kind. Our Christmas thoughts, however, are not less pure and lofty. They are even purer and loftier than at other times, for they are ennobled by our mourning for thousands of faithful men who made the highest, everlasting sacrifice to their country by their death on the battlefield. The American children help to lay the Christmas table for children, who by the merciless war have been robbed of their father and bread-winner. To mitigate in this way the misery of the little ones and sad ones, is noble and great. Our children thank you for it from all their heart, and I, as the speaker for the Imperial Capital wish to give hearty expression to the same sentiment."

The Chief-Burgomaster then addressed the American Ambassador and Mr. O'Laughlin, thanking them in English.

Mr. O'Laughlin answered, that he had come on a great and honourable mission. "I am glad," he said, "to be so near the beating pulse of the great German nation. I have been sent here as their representative, by the children of the American nation. An envoy and ambassador of peace, bearing no other passport, I convey to you the feelings of our children, their compassion for the children of German soldiers. I am here in the true fatherland of Christmas. Christmas Day has come from here to the United States, where it is held just as high as in its real country. The idea of the Christmas ship has come from Chicago. Two hundred large American firms gave their services. The idea was applauded everywhere. The President of the United States gave his support and lent a large warship, specially fitted out for the purpose. And the American children? They started eagerly to collect money for the purchase of the many things wanted. I am deeply touched by the reception I have had, here as well as in Munich. But the most heartfelt wish of myself and of those who have sent me, is for a real and true Christmas bringing about peace on earth very soon. On behalf of the whole American nation I beg you to give these Christmas wishes to your children."

The gathering then viewed the Transparent Exhibition in the great Hall and listened to German Christmas songs, rendered as prettily and sweetly as they were conceived, by children's-choirs. All the good things, which Mr. O'Laughlin has brought, will be divided amongst about 300 children, whose fathers are fighting for their country or have already died for its cause.

In the evening a dinner was given in honour of Mr. O'Laughlin by Herr von Mumm, Councillor of Legation. A large number of members of the American Colony and of distinguished Germans were present.

## Budapest And The War.

In the beautiful capital of a Hungary rejuvenated by half a century of cultural work the world war is now affording a historical opportunity of proving its educational, economical and social achievements. In the case of every nation war will answer these momentous questions: Do you make your mark on the battlefield? Do your towns show very strong traces of your sons having gone out to the fray? Modern Hungary may truly be proud of the answer obtained as to her vitality. The field of battle re-echoes the glory of the Hungarian soldiers. And the towns in the Empire of the Crown of Stephen do not betray by their appearance that the young Magyars are facing the foe in their millions.

This applies particularly to the capital. It is as touching as it is imposing to see how everyone thinks of the war, works for the war, subordinates everything to the sacred national issue, and how, yet with the exception of the transports of wounded, the Red Cross flags, the many soldiers about the streets and the shop windows full of war postcards, almost nothing points to an abnormal state of things. In Budapest the life, the labour, the effort of a population, full of the highest aspirations goes on steadily. The institutions created by a progressive and generous municipal policy, which during the last few years have raised the great town to a model locality of municipal socialism, are now passing through their test. Although being the youngest of the big continental capitals Budapest is now called upon to fulfill the same tasks as the oldest and strongest of them. And it fulfills them in a brilliant matter of course way.

Shortly after the outbreak of war Burgomaster Barczy convoked the municipal council of Budapest and said: "The war demands sacrifices from all of us: blood and sweat from those who fight the battles; tears and sorrow from those who have stayed at home. To alleviate the wants of lonely women and children and dry their tears; to prevent the sudden paralysis of economic life, to wage, along with the great war that other great struggle against distress occasioned by the war, to do these things we that have stayed at home are lined up in battle order."

The Burgomaster was right. Budapest is scoring brilliant victories in its struggle. Many, very many have gone out to fight. But those who have stayed at home are working. Budapest is not a picture of exhaustion, or of doubt. A fanatic faith in victory is the tonic of the labours dedicated to the future, so that once the war will be ended those returning home may smoothly enter upon the to-morrow and commence again where they left off on the 26th July.

The appearance of the capital, as said above, has hardly been affected by the war. The noise and bustle of the street has become less by a mere shade. There are fewer carriages and motor cars about, but along the Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse, Andrássy Strasse, Rakoczi Strasse there is considerable vehicular traffic. The main thoroughfares are teeming with humanity. Luxury and feasting have been banished from Budapest, and where necessary, household arrangements have been cut down, yet meat market statistics show that the citizens are consuming even more meat than they did before the war. Furthermore it is shown that although the consumption of lighting-gas has gone down, more gas has actually been used for household purposes.

Only now in time of war it is shown of what immense sacrifices the population of Budapest is capable. This is proved by the fact that during last September the Budapest revenue from taxes has gone up by 3,8 million kronas as compared with September last year. The further fact that the amount of deposits on notice and on current account with the Budapest banking establishments has hardly undergone a change tends to illustrate that the war does not frighten the population and that everyone feels confident of victory. When the moratorium was published the important banks announced that they would not avail themselves of its privileges, but would pay out deposits to anyone wishing to withdraw. But the majority of depositors left their money in the banks, only withdrawing sums with a view of subscribing to the War Loan.

But the greatest recognition is due to Budapest's fight against scarcity and want, in which fight authorities and society are standing shoulder to shoulder. And it may be said that a victory has been obtained, for distress in Budapest is conspicuous by its absence. The hungry are given food; those willing to work are given employment. By the end of December 8.5 million kronas will have been paid out to 35,000 families for account of the Government, while the town of Budapest has up to now spent about 5 million kronas on benevolent institutions and on the support of those in need. In 35 soup kitchens 15,000 persons are fed day by day. A central establishment is in the course of erection where 5-10,000 dinners will be cooked every day. In view of the rising prices of corn and flour the town contracted, immediately after war was

## Forced To Act As A Spy.

Some time ago a news item appeared in the German press concerning a British aviation officer who forced a German prisoner-of-war to accompany him in a British war aeroplane to serve him as a spy over the German positions at the front. It was stated at the time that this unfortunate prisoner had to make his trip in the British aeroplane without sufficient clothing, as a result of which he was near death's door when the aeroplane was brought to earth by German shrapnell fire.

It has now been ascertained just who this prisoner was and exactly what happened to him. He is a Saxon volunteer infantry private by the name of Erich Callies, now an invalid at the military hospital of Leipzig-Plagwitz, where he is suffering from his experiences, from which he will probably never recover.

This is his story, as told under oath: "One Sunday evening, in the last week of October, about 9 p. m. while fetching water I was captured by an English patrol midway between Merkem and Nachtigall in Belgium. They took me back of their trenches to a camp, where they lashed me to a tree. All night long I stood lashed to this tree. Monday forenoon my fetters were loosened. They took me before some English officers.

"One of them, who spoke fluent German, asked me where our heavy guns stood, where our General Staff was quartered, how our trenches ran, what troops were at our immediate front, and where our ammunition trains entered the front. I answered all his questions with false information, which I invented on the spur of the moment.

"After they got through questioning me an aviation officer ordered the two English soldiers, who had been guarding me, to take off my cap, belt and tunic. Why this was done I did not understand, unless they wanted to use my gray military coat and cap for possible spy purposes. The aviation officer and his two soldiers then took me to the aviation field. Here the aviation officer showed me a sketchmap of the immediate region around us and told me that he would expect me later to indicate on it the exact positions of our troops over which he meant to make a flight together with me.

"Thereupon he climbed into his aeroplane and the two soldiers thrust me into the seat beside him, to which I was lashed fast. The aeroplane rose and we flew high up through the clouds for several hours. Without my coat and cap I nearly froze to death. Even with my coat it would not have been much better. The officer beside me wore a fur lined leather overcoat, a warm leather cap over his head, ears and neck, thick gauntlets on his hands and goggles over his eyes. Of course I caught a terrible cold. When we descended my hand was so numb that I could not hold the pencil with which the aviation officer wanted me to indicate our German positions on his sketchmap.

"On the following day, a Tuesday, I was forced once more to accompany this aviation officer in his flights. Before he started he showed me how the bombs were to be released and told me that I was to let loose the bombs whenever he made loops in the air with his aeroplane, otherwise he would shoot me with his revolver. I did not let loose any bomb during our flight. At one point, when our machine was making a loop, the officer nudged me, and when I failed to act he made a motion as if he would draw his revolver, but steering the aeroplane kept him too busy. When we descended he struck me in the face with his fist, and other English soldiers came up and punched me in the face.

"Our last flight was made Thursday. By this time my cold was so bad that I was in a state of high fever. I was so feeble and depressed that the soldiers no longer felt that they had to lash me to my seat, for it was plain that I was too weak to be dangerous. I begged them to return my coat to me, but they only ordered me to shut up and threatened to punch me again if I opened my mouth.

"That Thursday, while we were in mid-flight, some German shrapnell burst declared, for a large quantity of flour for the municipal bakery, so that this bakery is in a position even now to sell bread at an exceptionally moderate price.

The output of the bakery is now being increased to 50,000 kilos of bread a day which answers to the need of 200,000 persons. The corporation also contracted for potatoes, vegetables, fish, game, butter, eggs, which victuals are sold at costprice in the municipal shops.

The municipal corporation also lodges fugitives, finds loans free of interest for struggling tradesmen, provides public nurseries and has established 140 war hospitals with 35,000 beds.

In the town hall an enquiry office has been opened where anyone in distress can obtain free advice, legal assistance, railway tickets etc. In connection with one of the special departments two excellent maternity homes are available, which have already rendered aid to 3000 women. Another department collects clothes for civilians and underclothing for soldiers.

near us. I could not hear the cries of the explosion because of the deafening racket of our aeroplane, but I saw the little white clouds of the bursting shrapnell quite close to us. Our machine must have been struck by a flying fragment of shell, for suddenly the English officer had to descend. He succeeded in gliding down some distance away from the nearest German trenches.

"After we came to earth and had climbed out of our seats, the officer muttered something about water for his cooler and started off with a canvas pail in hand towards a canal near by. When he had gone some distance I started to run towards our German line. He did not see me at first, but presently he turned and fired after me with his pistol. I threw myself on my face where there was a hollow in the field, and so it came that he could not find me again. I lay hidden until after dark, after which I managed to rejoin our nearest German outposts.

"By the time I got into our German lines, I was in such a high state of fever that I could not tell what was going on around me—all I know is that I awoke later on a cot in one of our field hospitals, still delirious with fever. When they first questioned me about my adventure I was too weak and unbalanced to tell any connected story, in fact I fainted before I had half told my story. The surgeons say that I am now suffering from acute pleurisy, pneumonia and inflammatory rheumatism. This last is the most painful, but the surgeon says I am bound to suffer from this alone for at least three months more. How long I may yet have to suffer from the other complications the surgeon cannot tell. This is the first time that the surgeon has permitted me to make a full statement."

The German War office, while publishing the affidavit of this prisoner of war, draws attention to article 25 of the protocol of the second Hague conference, subscribed by Great Britain as well as by Germany, in which it is expressly stipulated: "Belligerents will not force subjects of the enemy to take part in active war operations against their own country".

### General Joffre takes the Offensive.

During the last few days, renewed activity has been reported from the western front. The French offensive is due to an Army Order, issued by General Joffre, the French Commander-in-Chief, on December 17th. The order runs as follows:

For three months countless severe attacks have not succeeded in breaking through our lines. We have withstood them victoriously everywhere. The moment has arrived to take advantage of their present weakness, now that we have re-enforced ourselves in men and arms and materials. The hour of attack has come. After having held back the German forces, we now have to break them and free our country definitely from the invaders. Soldiers! France is counting more than ever upon your courage, your energy and your will to conquer, at any price. You have conquered already at the Marne, at the Yser, in Lorraine and in the Vosges. You will know how to conquer till victory is achieved in the end.

This order is to be read to all troops to-night and it is to be prevented from getting into the newspapers. Joffre.

This last sentence is most amusing in view of the fact, that it even got into the German papers through the German "Oberste Heeresleitung." As the German official reports show, the French offensive has up till now taken the form of desultory attacks all along the line without any material results.

### Centenary of Peace.

Celebration Postponed.

New York. The postponement is announced, except as regards the participation of churches, schools, and colleges, of the program of the centenary of peace celebrations, owing to the war.

### Frederic Warren

Exponent of **Jean de Reszke's** method  
9 Prinzregenten Str. Tel. Uhland 1051

### German Diction. — German lessons

**Eva Wilcke**

Teacher of Geraldine Farrar — George Hamlin — Marcello Grant, Royal Opera, Munich — E. Lucy Gates, Royal Opera, Cassel — Estelle Wentworth, Stadttheater Freiburg — George Mander, Royal Opera, Stuttgart — Jane Osborn Hannah, Boston, Grand Opera Co. — Emma Vilmar, Royal Opera, Berlin and many other prominent pupils. American pupils accepted for instruction without honorary until funds arrive.

Bamberger Strasse 27. 1-3.

### Signorina Barbuti

Private Italian lessons and circles.  
Wilhelmshöherstr. 29 (Kaiser Allee).

### Vegetarian Restaurants in Berlin.

Arthur Kammerer's Kronen Strasse 4/  
Vegetarian Restaurant First Floor.

Freya, Vegetarian Restaurant Charlottenburg, Bismarckstrasse 8, close to Knie.

## California Stephany

Speciality: American delicacies.

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In both theatres from 15.-23. December

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AN EPISODE OF TODAY

## WAR FILMS.

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FORCE OF HABIT.

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WEEKDAYS AT 5 O'CLOCK.

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## Notes and irregularities

*The continental times: special war edition*

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December 23, 1914

Version 1

CT1065v1

- Has same volume numbering and date (No. 1065. Vol. XX. No. 73, December 23, 1914) on front and back
- On front page, top right, “Next Issue: Monday” is printed (this does not appear on version 2 (CT1065v2))
- Content on front page is identical to the content on front page of version 2 (CT1065v2)
- Content on back page identical to back page of UWDCC copy of No. 1066. Vol. XX. No. 74 (CT1066) with addition of volume numbering and date.