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WIRELESS

AUSTRALIAN ON EUROPEAN FRONT IS CONFIDENT OF VICTORY IN 1917

Soldier Writes Interesting Letter to Hilo Relative Telling of His Observation

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence) Hilo, Sept. 11.—From a near relative of a well known Hilo man comes a letter from the front in Europe that can be read with the deepest interest and with a keen perception of what is the thought by and the determination of every Britisher now engaged in fighting for the empire on many a front.

"Now that I have been here for some eighteen months or so," says the correspondent, "I have every opportunity and every right in the world to say what I think of the war, its probable end and the conduct of the warring and neutral nations. Don't think me a 'hot-air artist,' as I know you Americans call a man who talks too much. I may, possibly, talk too much, but whatever I say in this letter is gospel truth, or at least so close to it that there can be no doubting it.

Joined Australians. "When I joined the first Australian force to be sent to the front you well know that I had had special training as a newspaperman. I always felt that if I could get out into the real, broad highways and could get in touch with the outer world, I would be able to record my impressions fairly vividly.

"Well, when the war broke out, I, as you know, volunteered for active service, and as I had had a little experience during the Boer war in South Africa, I soon was given a commission as an officer. That 'cuts no ice,' to quote your expressive American way of talking, but is still a part of the story.

How Greece Upset Plans. "The regiment I was a member of was sent to Egypt in order to not only take a hand in guarding the Suez Canal, but to also give us a chance to drill the men, all of whom were raw recruits, but all the same, the salt of the earth and every man a V. C. wearer in embryo.

"Well, we spent some time in Egypt and then we were sent to the Dardanelles. That story does not need telling again. It is written in history and will always remain as a bright, particular episode of the whole war. If Greece had kept the word pledged by her premier, Venizelos, to join the Allies, the Gallipoli affair would have turned out very differently. The fact of the matter is that our transports which were carrying enormous amounts of supplies were intended to first discharge their cargo at a Greek port. From that place the transports were to have returned to Egypt and other places. The supplies that the transports were meant to take to the Greek base were intended to be transhipped on other smaller vessels to Gallipoli. When the Greeks threw us all down—see I am strong on the American dog—we had to simply take these transports direct to Anzac Bay and other places and there discharge the cargoes. The worst part of the affair was that in the transports the most needed supplies were at the absolute bottom of the ship. This is accounted for by the fact that it was originally intended to have the transports discharge their cargoes at a Greek port. If that program had gone through all right, the first things out of the ships would have been the bottom ones in the new shore piles of supplies, and the last things out of the holds would have been what was first of all needed for the Gallipoli peninsula operations. Do you get me? Am I American enough?

"Well, I don't want to linger over the Gallipoli affair. We had nearly one hundred thousand casualties there,

but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we kept several hundreds of thousands of Turks busy, so that they could not go to any other front and attack our brothers in arms. We also had the satisfaction later on of knowing that Greece got in bad and had to submit to the penalty of having her country occupied by the Allies and of having to just do and say what was demanded of her. The Grecian episode is a sorry one, and it shows what a wife can do with a weakling. The sister of the Kaiser manages Tino and she has managed it so successfully that her husband has no country, no crown to speak of and no honor among real men.

Somewhere in France. "After the Dardanelles affair I found myself on the way to France and I am now 'Somewhere in that country.' I was at Loos and it was a great fight. I pulled through with a slight wound. If we had had the support of real big guns and a curtain of fire we would have gone much further.

"At present we are working along the Somme river and it is some river—I worked in that pun on the American plan just to see how you would take it. I know that this letter will probably never appear in print—even if it passes the censor. (Dear cousin, you are away off your base there. The letter is too good to dream of suppressing. If you live through the war come to Hawaii and you will be sure of a newspaper job; your stuff is good, Ed.)

"We are absolutely certain of victory about August, 1917. Our plan of offensive cannot fail. The big guns clear everything for miles and all the deep dug-outs of the Teutons cannot save them. Why, after the first big gun attack we simply marched over the ground with our rifles over our shoulders. It was no feat at all to take miles of front, once the big guns were finished their deadly work. We found Teutons in many a dug-out but they always surrendered and seemed very glad to do so. All the attempts the Germans may have made to counter attack were simply blotted out when our curtain of fire again was lifted and the shells, falling just twelve feet apart, blew the reinforcements—well, where they belong! Germans Cost in 1914.

"When this war is over and the historians get busy they will without doubt declare that the Germans and Austrians failed when they did not get to Paris in 1914. This was the turning point and they have never gained a yard since. They are now on the defensive and they are being driven back from their western fronts where they after two years of digging in thought that they were secure until the end of the war.

"It is all over but the cleaning up, and that will take perhaps one year more. Should Rumania come in on the side of the Allies the war will be much shortened. In the event of Rumania coming in, Turkey and Bulgaria will collapse almost immediately. Then Austria, attacked on the north and south, will sue for separate peace. Germany, left alone, will have internal troubles. The many little kingdoms that originally were ruled by separate monarchs will begin to stir things up and Prussia and the Kaiser's followers will be forced to give up. I fully expect to hear that Austria quits the war before this year is finished. If Rumania comes in on the side of civilization, Austria's end may be even nearer.

No More Turkey in Europe. "One thing is sure and that is that there will be no more Turkey in Europe—if anywhere. England stuck up for Turkey for hundreds of years and made it possible for the Sultan to rule in Europe. This was because it was feared that a holy war would stir up the Mahomedans of India and cause the loss of that great empire to the British. All such fear is now wiped out, as it has been proved that the followers of Mahomet in India are fed up of the Turks. The same thing applies to Egypt where there are many thousands of Mahomedans, who it was feared, would cause trouble. However, that idea has been knocked on the head and now the sick man of Europe has his walking papers. As I said before, the date of the Turks' departure from Europe depends upon when Rumania makes a move. It will be good night—do you get that?—for the Sultan and his harem before very long. (The correspondent must feel like a prophet now that he knows that Rumania is in the war on the side of the Allies. Ed.)

To sum it all up without giving away secrets, it is all over and there will be a nice cleaning up before long. Thank God, we have kept clean hands as usual, and there will be nothing disgraceful to charge the Allies with after they have won the war.

NO GERMAN BOOKS FOR ITALIAN LIBRARIES

BERNE, Switzerland.—The Milan correspondent of the "Bund" reports that all German books in the public libraries of Genoa, Milan, Venice, Rome, Naples and a number of other Italian cities have been removed and destroyed by order of the authorities. In most of the libraries not even translations of German works will be tolerated in the future. According to the Milan "Secolo," the Italian minister of education will soon issue a decree forbidding students to visit German universities after the war.

MRS. MARION DOWSETT WORTHINGTON

who has achieved wide fame as Hawaii's prima donna, arrived on the Matsosia. Since leaving here she has appeared in several very successful concerts and her friends hope to hear her soon before a local audience.

MISS MATILDA BLAISDELL, stenographer and secretary to the general business manager of the Star-Bulletin, returned from a mainland visit today. Miss Blaisdell visited relatives on the coast and enjoyed her trip very much, but says she is glad to get back to Hawaii.

EDDIE K. FERNANDEZ, moving picture man, amusement impresario and also a candidate for the lower house of the legislature from the fifth district, Oahu, came home on the Matsosia today. He has been on the mainland looking up amusement features. He expects to be a large concessionaire at the Hawaii County Fair.

H. K. HOPE EYESIGHT SPECIALIST and MANUFACTURING OPTICIAN Phone 4457—Fort and Beretania

Personal Mentions

W. F. McCONKEY of Pala, Maui, is visiting for a few days in Honolulu.

D. L. ROSENFELD, a commercial man of San Francisco, is here on business.

W. D. TYLER is in the city from San Francisco. He is at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

MR. and Mrs. E. KOPKE arrived today from a trip which included a visit to New York.

R. W. WHITTINGTON and J. P. M. Thomson of Kauai are registered at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

W. C. MCGONAGLE of Benson, Smith & Company returned from a business trip today.

MR. and MRS. H. H. WILLIAMS came home today from a mainland visit.

GUSTAVE SCHUMAN, president of the Schuman Carriage Company, returned on the Matsosia.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM A. BURNHAM are Easterners arriving on the Matsosia today. Mr. Burnham is a prominent railroad man.

CITY ATTORNEY and MRS. A. M. BROWN were Matsosia arrivals. They have toured western Canada and the coast. Brown is much improved in health.

MRS. F. S. ZEAVE, dressmaker in the Young building, returned today on the Matsosia from a business trip to the mainland.

J. W. VANNATTA and Leonard Parrish of Kaimuki are spending a week's vacation on the other side of the island and report fishing good.

ATTORNEY and MRS. JOHN CATHART came home today after a mainland trip of considerable duration.

FRANK MOSS, the pianist, returned on the Matsosia today and will resume his music classes at once. He enjoyed a visit to the mainland.

MRS. J. J. C. HAYNES and infant arrived today to join Mr. Haynes, who is with the Commercial Pacific Cable Company.

DR. and MRS. R. W. ANDERSON and Miss Ruth Anderson returned on the Matsosia today after an extended mainland tour.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES G. BOCKUS were returning Matsosia passengers. Mr. Bockus has been on a business trip to California.

REV. and MRS. GEORGE LAUGHTON of Hilo were among the Matsosia passengers. They enjoyed a mainland visit.

T. IMAI, a new secretary for the local Japanese consulate general and who is transferred from the embassy at Washington, will be here tomorrow in the Ventura.

R. J. BAKER, the photographer, was a homecoming passenger today from a successful business trip to the mainland. Mrs. Baker and their child were with him.

MR. and MRS. THEODORE BARCLAY arrived in the Kinau Sunday from Kauai, where they have been for the past two months. They have taken their former residence at the Colonial.

HENRY W. KINNEY, superintendent of public instruction, is at the Queen's Hospital, recovering from an operation which he underwent on Monday. He expects to be out and about within a few days.

MR. and MRS. JAMES W. DONALD of Kauai arrived in the Kinau Sunday to spend a vacation of several weeks in Honolulu. Donald is a chemist for the Kekaha Sugar Company and Mrs. Donald is a sister of R. F. Fursey of this city.

MR. and MRS. A. L. CASTLE were among the many Honoluluans returning on the Matsosia. Senator Castle attended the Republican national convention in Chicago as an alternate on the Hawaii delegation and has been a close observer of mainland politics.

DR. WILLIAM H. FRY, superintendent of the Methodist Mission in Hawaii, and Mrs. Fry came home on today's steamer. They have had a long mainland trip. Dr. Fry has spoken in many parts of the mainland and given Hawaii much valuable publicity, as he is an enthusiastic "booster."

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SERVICEDITORIAL

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