

HOLLAND FACES DANGER FROM BOTH ENGLAND AND GERMANY

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

GERMANY'S long threatened invasion of England is now about to be attempted. The Kaiser, his naval and military dignitaries and his statesmen are no secret whatever of the fact. German newspapers, particularly those reputed to enjoy what is known as official inspiration, display the utmost enthusiasm about the matter, assured of its success.

In England the Government has issued warnings to the people of the imminence of an armed descent upon the coast of the United Kingdom, warnings which have been emphasized by the well-known military expert of the London Times, who makes his headquarters at the War Department and who may be regarded in a measure as its mouthpiece. Moreover, the fact that the English insurance companies have been compelled thereby greatly to increase their rates and the extraordinary measures adopted by the authorities to shield as far as possible the lights of the metropolis at night and even to empty the large ornamental lakes in the garden of Buckingham Palace, lest the reflection of the rays of the moon or of a searchlight on the surface of its waters might disclose to some German Zeppelin the precise locality of the sovereign's residence, have brought home to the population the presence of a peril at which in the past they have been accustomed to scoff.

Germany's invasion of England indeed is the talk of the hour and the subject of discussion everywhere on both sides of the Atlantic. It is known that the German fleet, which has been held in reserve until now for just such a purpose, has during the past week been taking on coal, supplies and ammunition at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven for its attack in force upon the English naval contingents in the North Sea, and that the Kaiser expects that while the attention of the British squadrons is thus monopolized by his warships there will be nothing to obstruct the co-operation of his troops from Antwerp to England.

Both Prince Henry of Prussia, who, owing to his frequent and prolonged sojourns in the United Kingdom, knows every bit of the country as well as his native Prussia, and Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, the chief and virtual creator of the German navy, have been for a number of days past at Antwerp preparing for this coup against England, upon which the Kaiser is said to have set his heart, while a great fleet of Zeppelins is being got ready to order to support the invading army and to demoralize any British resistance thereto by means of an aerial attack upon London and the destruction of its principal buildings with bombs dropped from these aircraft.

Now, the only port along the entire coast of Belgium that Germany can use as the base for an armed descent upon the coast of England—the only Belgian port indeed that can be used for military purposes—is Antwerp. But it would be impossible for the Kaiser to despatch his army that is to invade the United Kingdom from Antwerp without violating the neutrality of Holland. For Antwerp, although the most important commercial port of the Continent of Europe, surpassing even Hamburg and Bremen in the extent of its trade, is situated on the navigable River Scheldt, which reaches the sea through territory belonging to the Netherlands.

Antwerp might have been saved from capture by the Germans had the English and French been willing to violate the neutrality of Holland by despatching troops, big guns and cruisers to that city up the Scheldt. But the neutrality of Holland is guaranteed by solemn treaties—"mere scraps of paper," as they were contemptuously termed by the Chancellor of the German Empire—and since the Kaiser regarded her pledges contained in these treaties, guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium, as of sufficiently sacred a character to compel her to draw her sword against the Kaiser in the defence of Belgian neutrality, she did not see her way to break her promises to maintain the neutrality of Holland, even to save Antwerp from falling into the hands of the Germans.

That Holland will defend her neutrality against Germany, or emulate the heroism displayed by the Belgians in their gallant fight for the integrity of their territory, is not in the least likely. With the fate of Belgium before their eyes the Lowlanders, who are businessmen rather than warriors, do not relish the notion of being despoiled of their riches, of having their public and private treasures carried off into Germany in the shape of loot, and of having their prosperous cities and towns transformed into blackened and shapeless ruins, like Lovain, Malines, Tienen, etc. They infinitely prefer to bow to the inevitable and not only to permit the Kaiser to violate their neutrality by despatching troops against England from Antwerp via the Dutch mouth of the Scheldt, but even to aid and abet him otherwise in his project.

This has been foreseen. For even as far back as in 1910 Gen. Van Looy-Sels, one of the most distinguished officers of the Dutch army, a member of the Senate, and who at that time was in charge of one of the principal military commands of the Netherlands, predicted in the Senate at The Hague that if Holland did not provide herself with effective coast defences she would inevitably be forced some day to open against her will into a war with England, "which would have disastrous results for our country, if it were only because we are certain to lose our colonies on account of it." What the General meant was that the Netherlands would be compelled by Germany to side with her in her war upon England, and to aid and abet her in her invasion of the United Kingdom.

Not but that the Dutch will regard Germany's violation of her neutrality, and her being driven against her will into a position of antagonism toward Great Britain, as a terrible calamity. They dread the possibility of the loss of their East Indian empire, which is far more to them, even than Hindustan is to England. For the Dutch Indies are probably the chief source of the wealth and prosperity of the Netherlands, and watered as has been the soil of Java and of Sumatra with the blood of her sons for hundreds of years past, Holland entertains a marked degree of attachment toward these colonies of hers, which touches every fibre of patriotism in the heart of her people.

Yet with all this the Dutch are powerless to protect their country from the violation of its neutrality by Germany. They do not possess anything like the military organization that enabled Belgium to hold the entire German army in check for a fortnight at

May Suffer Belgium's Fate if She Resists the Kaiser or Lose Her East Indian Empire if She Does Not

Liege, and thus to frustrate the Kaiser's project of reaching Paris, via Belgium, before setting France on Great Britain's side to the field. They have devoted themselves too entirely to the promotion of their trade and commerce to leave them any time to cultivate the art of war.

If Germany wishes to violate their neutrality they will have to yield, no matter how reluctant, and to comply with all the Kaiser's demands, even to the extent of placing Rotterdam at his disposal for the despatch of his troops to England. Emperor William is thoroughly aware of this, and since he cannot use Antwerp as a base for his operations against Great Britain without violating the neutrality of Holland, and the execution of his plans for the invasion of the United Kingdom depends thereon, the fate of the Netherlands may be considered as in a measure sealed.

If any doubt remained as to what the attitude of the Dutch will be when called upon to defer to the demands of Emperor William, under the penalty of sharing the fate of the neighboring kingdom of Belgium, in the event of refusal it would be set at rest by the manner in which they have lent themselves to the importation of foodstuffs and all sorts of other sorely needed supplies, including even copper, into Germany, in defiance of the spirit and of the letter of the obligations incumbent upon Holland as a neutral Power. Great Britain has been reluctant to stop vessels conveying freight from one neutral port to another, and in the case of ships flying a neutral flag and bound for Dutch ports has been content with solemn pledges on the part of the masters and the owners of the ships and of the shippers that the freight was destined exclusively for Dutch consumption and not for transmission to Germany, that is to say, to England's enemy.

That these pledges have been broken in the most flagrant manner is manifest from the fact that foreign imports into Holland have quadrupled, and in some cases increased tenfold, since the beginning of the war in the first week of August last. In fact, the imports into Hol-

land in neutral batons during that period have been so very far in excess of the needs of the Dutch for their own consumption that they furnish incontrovertible evidence of the truth of the charge, also otherwise definitely estab-

lished, that three-quarters of the imports that have reached the Netherlands since the end of July have been forwarded on to Germany.

Those of the lieges of Queen Wilhelmina who are too truthful to affront their consciences by denying the impeachment plead in excuse thereof that their people are so situated that they have no alternative but to satisfy the demands of Germany in the matter, dreading her resentment and vengeance in the event of their refusal. They might have added that the Dutch merchants concerned are reaping fortunes by thus transmitting foreign imports reaching Holland on to Germany, and that in some instances at any rate the patriotism for which the Dutch were so celebrated in the days of their wars of liberation from Spanish thraldom is tempered in this twentieth century by a desire for personal gain and for the turning of a not altogether honest penny.

While the Dutch have always viewed with apprehension the ill-concealed manoeuvres of Germany to bring Holland into the zollverein as one of the twenty-odd sovereign States that go to make up the confederation known as the Empire of Germany, realizing that it would involve the sacrifice of their political and above all of their economic independence, and that their commerce, now benefiting by a free trade tariff, would suffer gravely if forced to adopt the severely protective customs methods of Germany, they nevertheless lean to Germany rather than to England and to France. They cannot forget or forgive that it was France who compelled them to submit to the loss of Belgium in 1839.

And they are keenly alive to the fact that Great Britain has robbed them of most of their colonial possessions, has far outstripped them in the race for overseas dominion and has contributed in no small degree to the reduction of Holland to a maritime power of second or third rate importance. At the time of the South African war, fourteen years ago, the Dutch were so pronounced in their sympathy for their kinsmen, the Boers, and so violent in their antagonism to everything British as almost to lead

opened thus far to mar the relations between Holland and Germany, a country with which the former has a greater amount of commercial intercourse than with any other foreign nation. The Kaiser includes among his many hereditary dignities that of Prince of Orange, which in Holland is regarded as the particular title of the heir apparent to the throne, and by virtue of his descent from Prince of Orange of the House of Orange, that is to say, of the dynasty now reigning in Holland, regards himself as being in the line of succession to the Dutch crown.

Queen Wilhelmina has in Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin an intensely Teuton husband to whom she is devoted and who is on terms of the closest intimacy with the Kaiser, having until his marriage made his home at Potsdam as an officer of the Emperor's Guards. Queen Wilhelmina's widowed mother, who administered the Government of the Netherlands as Regent during the ten years of her daughter's minority, is also a German Princess, and should anything untoward happen to Queen Wilhelmina's only child, little Princess Juliana, her throne would pass at the Queen's death to one or another of a long list of Teuton Princes. For, falling little Princess Juliana, all the heirs to the Dutch throne are scions of German royalty.

Partly by reason of the German influences which prevail at the court of The Hague, partly because they feel that Holland is more dependent upon Germany, politically and economically, and more at her mercy than at that of any other foreign Power; partly also because of their racial tastes and inclinations, the leading statesmen, politicians and dignitaries of the Dutch realm have always been more pro-German than pro-English or pro-French. They have inclined much more toward Berlin than toward Paris or London and have for a considerable time past shown a disposition to defer to the views of the Kaiser.

Emperor William has not been slow to cultivate this disposition on their part and to take advantage thereof to cajole and threaten them alternately into complying with his behests, and the result has been the formation of a very strong party in Holland which submits to his domination. Thus some years ago the Kaiser sent a letter to Queen Wilhelmina urging that adequate measures should be adopted by Holland for the defence, not of her eastern

frontiers, which run with those of Germany, but of her coast line, that is to say against England, and intimating that in the event of her unwillingness or inability to comply with his request Germany might feel herself forced to

England to break off diplomatic relations with the Netherlands, and the bitterness which then prevailed in Holland against England has never been wholly obliterated to this day.

On the other hand, nothing has happened in neutral batons during that period have been so very far in excess of the needs of the Dutch for their own consumption that they furnish incontrovertible evidence of the truth of the charge, also otherwise definitely estab-

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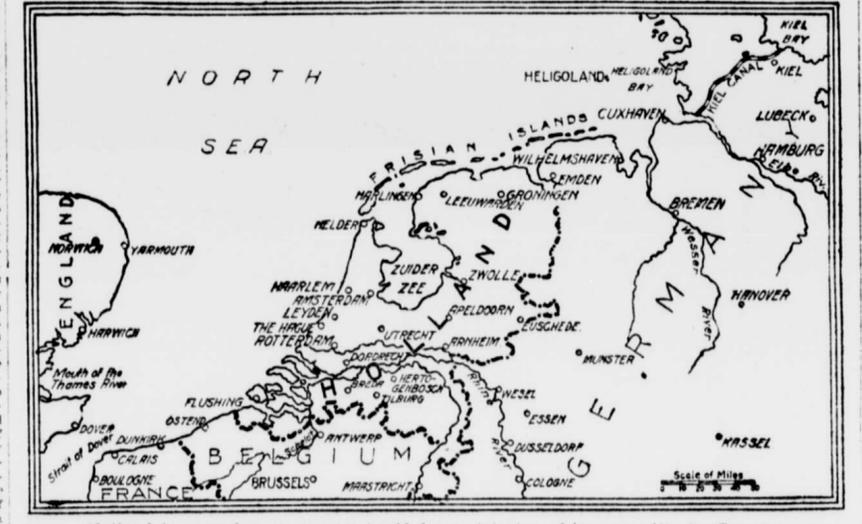
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Queen Wilhelmina with Princess Juliana.



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Englishman's Impression of the Russian Army From Within

VERY few people in America know much about the intimate life of the Russian soldier. For that reason a book just published by the George H. Doran Company, called "The Russian Army From Within," comes almost in the nature of a revelation. It was written by an Englishman, W. Barnes Stevens, who lived for a quarter of a century in Russia and writes of her soldiers with first hand knowledge.

As regards physique, says Mr. Stevens, the Russian soldier on the whole is very fine indeed. I should say that on the average he is not so tall as the English soldier, but is larger boned and broader chested. Although he is harder than the average Britisher, he is physically not so strong, energetic or active, mainly owing to the wretched quality of the food supplied him. Officially, Ivan Ivanovitch is supposed to get more from many other nations, but in practice this does not work out.

The standard in Russia, as regards height for military service, is very low compared with our own. It begins at five feet for infantry and five feet three inches for cavalry. This is surprising, or very many tall men are to be found in Russia, especially among the Lithuanians, the Little Russians, the Cossacks, the Siberians and the Tatars, many of whom are over six feet. But the typical Russian, the backbone of the army, as I have before observed, is not a tall man; he is of medium size, fleshy and thickly built. When pure and unadmixed with Tatar blood, he is not unlike many of the men I have seen in the north and east of England. In some of the northern provinces, where there is a strong influence of Scandinavian blood, the resemblance to the fair, ruddy Englishman of the east coast is still more striking. The conquest of the people in the Middle Ages by the savage Tatars and Mongols from Asia has, however, modified the appearance as well as the character of a large portion of the population. Physical deterioration is particularly observable in the great manufacturing centres, where men (able to serve are frequently rejected. In the country districts the proportion of men rejected by the military doctors is, comparatively speaking, very small. Other causes of deterioration are the dreadful famines and epidemics. The

absence of doctors and the consequent spread of disease has much to do with the inferiority of the Russian soldier. The moderate use of vodka, a spirit distilled from rye, is one cause of the sickness, poverty and physical and moral retrogression among the peasantry and the soldiers of all classes. On the whole, however, the Russians are a strong and hardy people, mainly because the conditions of life are so severe.

As the majority of the peasants are practically vegetarians it is not an expensive business to feed the Russian army. The soldiers' diet mostly consists of cabbage soup, porridge, potatoes, peas, beans, good wholesome rye bread, macaroni, garlic, fish, lard and various dainties cooked in sunflower seed oil. On feast days and holidays they are plentifully supplied with vodka, usually at the officers' expense; for like their men the Russian officers are fond of liquor and extremely hospitable. As a rule the men only have half a pound of meat a day and about three pounds of black bread, which is almost as nourishing as meat, and, I believe, far more wholesome. Moreover, it has been observed that men who are moderate consumers of meat and vodka recover from their wounds sooner than those who eat much flesh. One of the great faults of the Russian army is its poorly managed commissariat, which during the Turkish and Russo-Japanese wars caused the loss of many thousands of men. Soldiers who returned from the war state that they had to subsist on marmite, biscuits and beans, while thousands of horses died for want of provender. After the war was over there was a good deal of hanging of unfortunate Jewish contractors, but the greater culprits were allowed to go free. So long as the Russian Government persists in the questionable practice of paying its officials and public servants about half the wages due to them this evil will never be eradicated. It is gratifying to know that every year as the people become more enlightened the taking of bribes is becoming more rare.

The pay of officers usually averages from £3 to £10 a month, according to the standing of the regiment. The salary of a general is not extravagant, and varies from £300 to £500 a year. In order to lessen the expenditure incurred

in keeping up their households every officer is permitted to keep one or more djenshiks. A djenshik is a soldier who serves his superior officer, without pay, in return for his board and lodging. The majority of Russian officers are very generous to their servants, generally giving them pocket money and presents. As a rule the men prefer to serve their officers, particularly when the latter are popular. It relieves them from the trying and monotonous duty of living in barracks and eating soldiers' fare, which, although plentiful and nourishing, is very rough and simple.

Under the influence of his superior officer, the djenshik often becomes more refined than his companions, and acquires a taste for reading and the pleasures of life. In his dress and habits he becomes clean and neat, and gains some knowledge of town life and foreign countries which he relates to an astonished village on his return. As a rule the relations between officers and their subordinates are quite paternal; and an officer when addressing a soldier calls him "little brother," "friend," "little pigeon," and the soldier in return calls his commanding officer "little father" or "brother."

Russian officers of all ranks are far more sociable and less reserved than those of other nations. In fact I have frequently seen a simple soldier approach a colonel or general and ask him for a light or some small favor as a matter of course. The soldiers have even nicknames for their favorite officers, whom they regard as friends, advisers and in loco parents.

An officer is supposed to know everybody and to be a kind of walking encyclopedia or "Inquire Within" for everything, very similar to our old country parsons. If a soldier's wife has twins, if the mare has foaled, or if the children have the measles the officer is consulted in all seriousness and his advice is taken, although he may be as ignorant as the soldier who consults him regarding the happy or unfortunate occurrence. Officers frequently laugh and joke with their men and call them molozhie (bucks) and tovarizta (comrades). The simple Russian private would never dream of taking a liberty or being unduly familiar in return for this friendliness; for an officer is always an officer in the eyes of the soldier; also

take in hand the construction of the Dutch coast defences herself, which would entail a conditional military occupation of Dutch territory.

The existence of this letter, which was revealed by Baron von Heeckeren, a minister plenipotentiary in the diplomatic service of Holland, formed the subject of a number of acrimonious debates in both chambers of the States General at The Hague in 1899, and the Cabinet found itself unable to give any definite or explicit denial of the fact that any such letter had been received by the Queen, contenting themselves with a declaration that they had not actually seen it. That the letter did

exist is best shown by the fact that a few months later the Dutch Parliament in obedience to the directions of the Kaiser contained in themissive to Queen Wilhelmina voted for Holland the very large sum of \$10,000,000 for the construction of the coast defences demanded by the Emperor.

Subsequently and as the result of negotiations with Berlin the Dutch Government decided to devote the principal portion of the money to the reconstruction of the ruined fort at the mouth of the Scheldt at Flushing to convert it into a great maritime stronghold equipped with Krupp guns of the heaviest and latest type. Now this fort

is amative and not over chaste, it not infrequently happens that there is an addition to the family during the husband's term of service. If the little stranger is a boy, all goes well; it does not matter, for the more boys there are the more land there will be for each household when the communal property is redistributed. But if the new arrival is a girl there is trouble, for girls are not wanted. The land is distributed according to the number of souls, and as women are supposed to have only "vapor" (par) and not a soul, and can neither do a man's work in the fields nor serve in the army, no share is allotted to them. Generally, however, the husband is forgiving and good natured, and makes every allowance for the frailty of his women folk, saying in effect, "Why should I be so hard on a weak woman?"

The Cossacks, who have Tatar, Turk and Gothic blood in their veins, are not so easygoing, if I can credit some anecdotes I heard concerning their treatment of women after the last Turkish war. The Russian soldier is simply a "child of nature," as a Russian General of my acquaintance remarked. He is easily amused and easily satisfied, for his wants have been reduced to the minimum. Give him a few ounces of "machorka"—a coarse black tobacco grown in Little Russia—a concertina, an old newspaper to use as cigarette paper, and he is as happy as a king. If you can add to these luxuries a small bottle of vodka (a "Witochka," so named jointly after the Minister of Finance who first ordered vodka to be sold in these small bottles) costing five-pence, he is then supremely favored, inspired by the fiery spirit, and he shows his overpowering delight in dancing fast and furiously, certain with more ability than grace, the "Kam-arinka" or some other favorite measure. He is passionately fond of singing and spends long hours alone composing and improvising plaintive songs in praise of his sweetheart, his village, his horse or even his favorite general if he has one. Wherever I have wandered through the Russian Empire I have met the sturdy gray coated fellows marching and singing in the steep rocky defiles of the Caucasus, on the

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was not comprised in the original scheme of the Dutch in the defence of their coast. It is indeed superfluous and altogether useless for any such purpose. Its only use would have been to prevent the English or the French from obtaining access to Antwerp from the sea by the Scheldt.

Belgium protested in vain against the construction of the fort as constituting a menace to the navigation of her shipping and as an injury to her sovereignty, being backed up in the matter by Great Britain and France. But her remonstrances remained unheeded and the fortress is well nigh completed, although the present war broke out before the Krupp guns which had been ordered for its armament could be put in place. This omission will doubtless now be required in short order; indeed as soon as ever the Kaiser considers that the moment has come to take temporary possession of part or of all of the Netherlands in order to enable the execution of his plans for the invasion of England.

It must not be forgotten that within the past twelve months the Dutch Government permitted the great German iron master and ship builder, Thyssen, the principal rival of Krupp in Germany, to acquire at Vlaardingen on the New Waterway, an immense tract of land for the construction of a harbor and docks capable of accommodating dreadnaughts and with everything requisite for a naval station, whence the important harbor and seaport of Rotterdam could be controlled. Then too Holland has concluded an agreement with Germany relating to the construction and laying of cables in the Far Eastern waters, which has the effect of entirely subordinating the Netherlands to the German Government in the matter of her telegraphic connections with her rich East Indian empire.

There is indeed no end to the facts of a similar character which I could mention here in order to show the hold which the Kaiser has managed to obtain upon Holland thanks to her favorite policy of allowing things to slide, in compliance with that old French saying, according to which "le moins pressant est toujours le plus sage." It is a pity, however, that the Dutch could not have shown more provoyance, and above all more independence, in their relations with the Kaiser.

For in his conflict with England they are bound to suffer, no matter whether it is Great Britain or Germany that ultimately wins. Indeed they are likely to realize the truth of that old Dutch proverb which warns people against the eating of cherries with the great and mighty, who are wont to pick out the best, and by way of envenoming the peasant, to fling the stones at the noses of the weaker, who in this instance will be the Dutch.

Cigarette May Cost an Eye.

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 31.—Lawrence Head, son of L. M. Head, a day laborer, lost the sight of one of his eyes as a result of a peculiar accident. Young Head was milking a cow and also smoking a cigarette. The animal switched its tail and knocked the cigarette from his mouth into the young man's eye, burning the ball.