

Saturday, January Ninth, 1915.

WOMEN AND IS DOUBT TO BE ZONE OF WAR

Thin Strip Sacred to All Christendom May Be a Battleground.

CUSTOMS UNCHANGED BY THE CENTURIES

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9.—The latest lapid brought within the rapidly expanded war area is that thin strip upon the eastern coast of the Mediterranean sea, the Holy Land, sacred to the believers of three world-religions, to Christians, Jews and Moslems, and around which were cradled ideals which have made almost all civilization tributary. It is a bridge between the Moslem power in Asia Minor and the Moslem power in Egypt, and so assumes strategic importance in the war of the nations. Yet the Holy Land is a land embalmed in the spirit and customs of 2000 years ago, according to a description of village life there as prepared by John D. Whitting for the National Geographic Society.

Manners and Customs Unchanged.—Manners and customs which prevailed in Palestine in Biblical days are still unchanged. While the townspeople are losing their ancient customs and quaint costumes, the villagers are in those things as they were 2000 years ago. Three distinct classes inhabit the land: the Bedouin, a nomadic, war-loving race; the Fellahs, agriculturists, shepherds and village dwellers; and the Madanites, who live in the towns and cities and are artisans.

The present day villages are located, as a rule, either on the tops of hills, originally for protection, or near some spring or source of water. Many are built upon the foundations of buildings whose origin dates back thousands of years. There does not exist a single example of a peasant village that has been founded in modern times.

Village streets are crooked, narrow and un paved. The farmers' houses are crowded close together for protection. These houses consist of one large room, usually square. About two-thirds of the space within is devoted to a raised, masonry platform, some eight to ten feet above the ground, and this is the kitchen, store room and the living room of the family. Below this platform, the cattle and flocks are housed, goats and sheep, a few cows and a number of camels.

Each Village Has Social Center.—Each village has a guest-chamber which is the social center for all the village men, who love to congregate and eat and drink. Each day, by turn, one of the villagers furnishes the coffee, beans and sugar to be served to the men who gather at the guest-chamber.

They are, of course, great respecters of persons, so that if a common man happens in, a couple of fried eggs with bread and olives will go for him. If a more important personage arrives, a pair of roast chickens is provided for his supper; but if a still more honored one or a company of messengers, a lamb or kid is killed. The village guest-chamber is a club of the village men.

Boys Are Children, Girls Not Fried.—Children in peasant families are always welcomed. The father prides himself on his boys. Even the mother prefers them and when questioned as to the number, will say "five children and two girls, or whatever the numbers may be. This is the more strange since the wife's husband must pay for the girl, while boys are a heavy expense and their wives and weddings are costly affairs.

Women are looked upon as something inferior. The woman may never call her husband by his first name, but "Oh father of Ahmed, or be. The wife likewise takes the name of her first-born son. The husband will never say "my wife" or mention her first name, but will say either "the able one," "my family," "the forbidden," or the daughter of my uncle. The reason for this last title is that the village man in the East and marries his first cousin in preference to anyone else, and in fact she cannot marry another if he was her.

Babies Roughly Treated.—When the feeble or peasant child is born, its tender skin, without being washed, is rubbed with olive oil and salt. For seven consecutive days it is re-oiled, and when a week old gets its first bath and is again oiled. In some localities they consider it unsafe to bathe the baby before it is forty days old. Mortalities are high, for in the view of the rough treatment they receive, it becomes a question of the survival of the fittest.

The ways of the village folk, their methods of agriculture, of administration of household and community, and

Drummer Gets the Victoria Cross

Rescues Man at Risk of Life

LONDON, Eng., Jan. 9.—The coveted Victoria Cross has been awarded to drummer Spencer John Bent of the First East Lancashire regiment. Here is how young Bent modestly describes the gallant exploit for which he was honored: "We were as usual taking our turns alternately watching for the enemy, and I had snuggled down into my hole. We had no officer in our trench and my platoon leader had gone to visit a post, when someone passed the word to the line that the battalions were to retire. I started to follow them, but remembered a French trumpet which I had found, and had carried with me for some time. I did not want to lose it, and went back for it, changing a bullet. "When I got into the trench I saw someone just coming round the corner. Thinking it was a German, I waited for him till he had crawled up to me, and then poked my rifle into him and asked him who he was. It was Sergt. Waller, who had told me that it was a wrong order. I at once jumped out of the trench and ordered the men back. "We all got back to the trench safely and waited. In the early morning the Germans evidently thought we had left the trenches, for after a bombardment they attacked. The Germans came on, doing a sort of grape shot. Our officers kept our fire back, and in the

BRITISH WOMEN ORGANIZE VOLUNTEER ARMY

Cambridge and Oxford Are Drawn Upon Heavily For Army Officers.

BOTH HAVE LARGE HOSPITALS IN USE

LONDON, Eng., Jan. 9.—No one place in England, probably, has the war wrought such changes as upon Oxford and Cambridge. Neither university had been "militarized" in tone, though each has its officers' training corps, Cambridge taking hers perhaps a little more seriously than Oxford. Yet no sooner had war broke out than each headquarters was rife with applicants for commissions for past and present members. Hundreds of commissions were obtained before the war began, and there have been some enlistments, although enlistment is discouraged among men who could serve their country better as officers. Of those who should have come up as freshmen many went from their public school O. T. C. into the army; and one or two of the Cambridge men, who reached his college as a freshman at the time that he should have reached his college as a freshman.

Those Left Are Drilling.—Of those who are left, at least half are doing full time and waiting for commissions. There remain only the unfit, those who, like students from neutral countries, natives of India, and Indian civil service probationers, are prevented from taking arms, students who have come to Oxford and Cambridge because Germany was the best medical corps to the best purpose. There are also a few whose religious beliefs or principles bar them from the military service; and there is not the moment of more "slackers" there seem to be none.

The generous youth of England has rushed to the aid of the army. At 11 or noon the street is not now a flutter with gowns hurrying to lectures; and the medical students who have been recommended to finish their course that they may serve the army are prevented from taking arms, students who have come to Oxford and Cambridge because Germany was the best medical corps to the best purpose.

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BRITISH COLONIAL HORSE ARE NOW RESTING, BUT ARE RESTLESS.

WERE FIRST TO SEE GERMAN ADVANCING

COUNT MOURIE DE BEAUFORT LONDON, Eng., Jan. 9.—The picturesque figures of members of the British Colonial Horse are frequently seen in these days in the little patch which is left of Belgium. They are proud fellows since the affairs of the Yser. Corporal Davison and four of his men were among the first who discovered the German advance in the district of the Yser and they were the men who fired the first shots that started the great and longest battle in the history of the world.

Now Getting a Rest.—About 20 of these sturdy chaps, among them several members of the Royal Northwestern police of Canada, French and British, are in the front line of Belgian Lancers. They are having a rest at present, but are beginning to get restless, and are anxious to get back again to the front.

At the farm where the boys of the B. C. H. are quartered at present, I made the acquaintance of a young farmer. He has a married brother who lives five or six miles away from here, across the German lines, in the territory at present occupied by the Germans. About ten days ago this young farmer was awakened in the middle of the night by his brother, who had been forced by the Germans to cross the Belgian lines to obtain information for them. His wife and house were held as hostages, and he had been informed that in case he should prefer not to return, his wife would have to pay the penalty for his "treason." He went

British Women Organize Volunteer Army



When the Germans invade Great Britain they will find in addition to the regular soldiers and Kitchener's new army, a body of determined women who will act as the last line of the reserves. Until called to the trenches the women will work as dispatch riders, telegraphers, camp cooks, grooms, and in any other useful capacity that offers.

This photograph shows a group of women in khaki, gathered around a table in Old Bedford college, London, receiving a lesson in the use of the field telegraph. There are many professional telegraphers in the Women's Volunteer reserve, as the new organization calls itself.

The women hold regular drills. Army officers are their instructors at first, and then women drill officers take charge of the units. Every woman must pass a physical examination and all below 18 or above 40 years of age are barred. There are many militant suffragets, no longer enemies of the government, in the reserve, the famous viscountess Lathburgh, colonel-in-chief of the Women's Emergency corps. She has long been known as a lover of out-of-door life. Now she is spending all her time drilling Englishwomen for war.

Women bear certain forms of hardship better than men. It is well known that women are less susceptible to cold than men, and their bodies are better protected by fatty tissue. This is seen on the bathing beach where women are able to enjoy themselves on chilly days when most of the men seek the clubhouse. The same condition should be true in wet, damp trenches. It is also accepted that a woman, once her nervousness is over, and her determination is inspired, can stand more physical pain than men.

Would Equal the Men.—"In fact," said the woman informer, "the only way the women would be inferior to men soldiers would be on the long marches." At Old Bedford College, which is the headquarters of the Women's Emergency corps, I found Col. Viscountess Lathburgh and Honorary Col. Evelyn Haverfield hard at work with their recruits. Mrs. Haverfield is remembered for over a week, and the last thing he remembers is sitting down to lunch in the supporting trenches before he was under fire.

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FIVE MEN START GREATEST FIGHT IN L HISTORY

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GERMANS ADVANCING

COMMANDANT OF CALAIS TO BELGIUM LONDON, Eng., Jan. 9.—The picturesque figures of members of the British Colonial Horse are frequently seen in these days in the little patch which is left of Belgium. They are proud fellows since the affairs of the Yser. Corporal Davison and four of his men were among the first who discovered the German advance in the district of the Yser and they were the men who fired the first shots that started the great and longest battle in the history of the world.

BRITISH LABOR LEADER IS WITH ARMY AT FRONT THOUGH BITTERLY OPPOSED TO WAR

LONDON, Eng., Jan. 9.—One of the greatest surprises of the present war is the news that Ramsey MacDonald, the famous leader of the Labor party, and one of the few English politicians who in its initial stages was strongly opposed to the idea of war with Germany, has now gone to the front and is at present serving with Dr. Hecker Mourou's field kitchen and motor ambulances.

At first, he said, "The Germans paid cash for everything they bought or requisitioned, while we, of course, could only give 'bans.' Therefore, in many cases, the Germans were thought quite well off, and received more attention than our own people. But, after a while, the mailed fist under the kid gloves showed, and they have eyed the population of the countryside into such a state that the peasants, out of sheer fear for their lives, have given almost heaven into doing their dirty work for the Germans. I am perfectly convinced."

President of France Pins Decoration on Woman at Gerbeville.

RESCUED SACRED WAFERS IN CHURCH

ANCY, FRANCE, JAN. 9.—Gerbeville has become, like other cities of the past, a regular show place.

Its few remaining inhabitants, reinforced by people of greater distinction from the outside world, have provided the material for "living" pictures against the dead background of its crumbling walls. Practically everyone who now comes to Laocaine is taken to see it, and to moralize over its destruction. President Poincaré during his visit to Nancy, was duly introduced to its ruins and to the quiet sister of the Order of St. Charles of Nancy who carried the wounded all through the dangerous times of its bombardments by French and Germans, the running fight in the streets, and the horrors of the holocausts of incendiary bombs which brought all but a handful of its houses crashing to the ground.

Now she is one of the few women in France who wears the Cross of the Legion of Honor. The president borrowed the decoration from one of his suits and pinned it upon her black robe with his own hands.

Old Church Is Pillaged.—On the day that the German soldiers came into the town some of them began the work of pillage in the church at one end of it, while the few dozen Chasseurs of the defending force were still keeping up the fight on the streets on the farther side of the river. The Germans tried, amongst other things, to break open the sanctuary above the altar, in which is kept the Pyx, containing the consecrated wafers, by firing several shots at the lock. After a time they gave up the attempt and moved to search for other games.

Then, while the bullets were still flying Soeur Julie succeeded where they had failed. Knowing that they would be sure to come back, and determined to save the sacred elements from their sacrilegious hands, she picked up a bagonet which had been left lying on the floor of the nave, and with its help wrenched open the door of the sanctuary. The Pyx she found lying on its side, and she picked up the wafers, which she collected the wafers and, placing them in the sacred vessel, carried it to her house, and put it in a safe among the bottles, tins and dishes of her hospital buffet.

Following David's Example.—When the fighting was over the Germans would be sure to search all the houses for food, and her precautions would all be vain. So, with a full sense of the enormity of her offence, as there was no priest within reach, she followed the example of David, and hid the wafers in a hole in the wall of the church.

Afterwards a priest did come to the hospital to help her, and she confessed her misdeed, that both in the church and hospital she had done perfectly right. Her story was reported to Soeur Marie Romet, who is worthy of special honor for the way in which she stood up to the German authorities in Calais, and she succeeded in getting a company of German sappers to save the houses which had been set on fire by German soldiers.

Give Absolution; Dies.—A private soldier, badly wounded, was lying in one of the hospitals, and he was talking about his death, and asked for the service of a priest. At the moment, no priest was to be found. The man in the hospital, with his thick, honest, shaven face, shattered by a shell, was in a state of coma. Gradually he realized that the doctor and the nurse were talking about him. He managed to make a nurse understand that he was himself a priest, and would pronounce the absolution of his fellow soldier if she would hold up his hand, and then, as he whispered the words that brought to the other the comfort that he wanted, he died.

for the ascent is somewhat hazardous. On the top, perhaps 200 men are gathered, enjoying the wonderful view in the clear Egyptian atmosphere. Still others are exploring the airshaft in the interior.

Here among the pyramids of the Pharaohs are stationed the great infantry forces ever transported across the sea. The Sphinx looks down on troops from Australia, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Hindustan and Tasmania, while there is a large number of Egyptian soldiers also quartered here.

Camp Is in the Desert.—The army camp is situated in the desert just in the rear of the house of the king, Menes. In the vicinity Harvard university is conducting excavations.

The men exercise their horses in the desert, romping around the pyramids and the Sphinx. This is the largest number of horses in the battlefields of Napoleon Bonaparte. The different contingents have different towns of origin, but the distribution of the Egyptian soldiers also quartered here.

Is a Queer Mixture.—A woman's organization has given all the New Zealanders warm clothing (Continued on Page 5, Col. 4, This Section)

High Altitude Cold Hinders Fight

Turks Freeze to Death in Trenches

PETROGARD, Rensia, Jan. 9.—Russian and Turkish armies are struggling under horrible weather conditions. Turkish Armenia is very mountainous. The average altitude is about 3000 feet, but the armies have clashed on several occasions at greater altitudes than this. The engagement of Uze-Veran, for instance, was fought at an altitude of 1807 feet. The altitude is that of Naples, but the winter is marked by severe snowstorms and never ceasing biting winds. The difference between day and night temperatures is enormous in the sea. A Reamur thermometer will show 75 above, but in the course of the night the mercury will fall to 25 degrees below. Another serious effect of the altitude is the difficulty in breathing. The rarified air retards the rapid movement of men or animals. The trench cannot be entrenched. The country for the most part is bare of trees. The Russians intend to use their tent because this would give the distribution of their forces away to their enemies. They must sleep under the cold sky, using their tent only as beds. The conditions for the Turks are much worse than for the Russians. The latter are insured to frost, while the former have been sent from the southern parts of Asia Minor. They are accustomed to a hot climate. After the great battle between Uze-Veran and Kepeky nearly all the Turkish soldiers who were taken prisoners had frozen hands and feet.

Have Sport in Running Up and Down the Huge Egyptian Monuments.

IS TRAINING CAMP FOR BRITISH TROOPS

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan. 9.—If one goes out to the great pyramid of Ghazet these days he sees a most astonishing sight. The sides of the enormous mass of stone, which is 420 feet high, are covered with soldiers in khaki. Up and down they pour in a constant rivulet of soldiery. There is a lot of horse play among them, and once in a while one gets a bad fall.

Dancing Dervishes Will Form Volunteer Regiments To Aid Turkey in the War

Amsterdam, Holland, Jan. 9.—It is reported from Constantinople that the sect of Dancing Dervishes has decided to enrol regiments of volunteers. The Dervishes are the religious orders of Islam, but unlike the monks of Christendom, they are married men. They are hated by the Ulema, who are the high doctors and ecclesiastical authorities of Islam, but they rest their power on the ignorance and fanaticism of the people. Some of the Dervishes are benevolent and broad-minded men, anxious to do good to humanity and living a life of self-denial and piety among the poor; others are sensual and savage creatures who prey on the people. There are 32 Dervish sects in Turkey, but there are three that mainly count—the Whirling Dervishes, or Mevlevi, the Howling Dervishes, and the Bektaia.

The dancing Dervishes are really whirling. They cultivate a species of spiritual exaltation, which degenerates into physical frenzy.

BRITAIN ADVERTISING AMONG BELGIANS FOR CRAFTSMEN

The Hague, Holland, Jan. 9.—Great Britain is advertising among the Belgian refugees camps in Holland and elsewhere for skilled artisans, iron, steel and brass workers, gunsmiths, rope makers, leather workers, hosiery makers, shoemakers, instrument makers, glass workers and many others are called for, but proof of the proficiency of applicants is demanded.

Bursting of Shells Destroys Memory

Soldiers' Minds Often Left Blank

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Great Army Is Camped Around the Pyramids

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