

SINGING NEW WAR ART FOR THE TROOPS ABROAD

When W. Hohenzollern of Potsdam put singing lessons in the curriculum of his soldiers' training a tremor of military giggle was heard around the world. Three years ago, when Mars smiled at the sight of those same soldiers marching to the frontiers—east, south and west—under the throaty barrage of "Deutschland, Deutschland Uber Alles," the derisive giggles began to die out until now they are not. It must be admitted that it was a case of he who laughs first lives to yodel.

All of which is somewhat distantly related to the fact that the American soldiers in France are not only singing as they train, but are actually being trained to sing. One of our officers said:

"We are training with the 'blue devils,' and they certainly deserve their name. They are the toughest set of undersized gentry that I have run into in France.

"They bared to the waist and went through three hours of grenade and bombing practice that was the last word in strenuousness. Then we watched them as their commander assembled them for the march back to the village. At the command 'Attention!' their heels clicked, their heads went back, their chins up, and their right hands were pasted rigidly against their right trousers legs.

"At command, 'March!' all of them started off, punctuating their first step with the first word of their marching song. It was not any sickly chorus either. There was plenty of beef and lung power behind every note. My men, however, lined up opposite, were not missing a bit of it. Most of them seemed to know what was expected when I said: 'On the command to march the company will begin to sing, keeping time with the music. The first sergeant will announce the song.'

"The first sergeant responded without a change of color, as if the command to sing was an old regulation. I know that he was puzzled, but he did it well. The name of the song was passed down the line from man to man. When I gave the order to march the company, almost half of them new recruits, wheeled in squads of fours and started off down the road singing. 'Hail, hail, the gang's all here!'

"We swung into camp that night with every voice raising lustily on 'A grasshopper hopped on a grasshopper's back,' and after dinner the billets just spotted melody, everything, from ragtime to Christmas carols and baby lullabies.

"I have found that, while a song that has snap and a swing to it is the most popular on the march, a sentimental love ballad is a sure winner in the cool of the evening."

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RUSSIAN WOMEN TO DIE BY POISON IF TAKEN BY FOES

Russia's women soldiers have pledged themselves to take their own lives rather than become German war prisoners. Each woman soldier carries a ration of cyanide of potassium, to be swallowed in case of capture.

The members of the women regiments, now constantly increasing, agreed that death was to be preferred to the fate they would probably meet at the hands of the Germans.

The "Legion of Death" fighters are "good killers." From a woman's lips a correspondent heard how she had run a German through with her bayonet, firing the rifle at the same time. From others he heard how these women and girls, fresh from comfortable homes and universities, went leaping over mangled bodies in the charge, with enemy shells bursting all about them.

To See It Through.

But these harrowing experiences of the women fighters have steeled them and hundreds of other girls to a new determination to see it through. Girl soldiers drilling in the streets are now a common sight in Petrograd. Huge crowds gather daily about the engineers' school, where 1,000 girls are drilling preparing to go to the front. In Moscow 1,000 men are training, while Kiev and Odessa have smaller bands. Premier Kerensky has also authorized the formation of women marine detachments and has promised to assign them to ships. The new women commands attempt no sort of decoration. Their heads are shaved, and they wear the regulation uniform, including the heavy, ugly army boots.

The five women fighters at the hospital were partially paralyzed by shell shock. One of them, a peasant girl, smiled joyously as she pointed to a German helmet on the bed beside her. It was the first war prize of a Russian woman.

"It Was His Life or Mine."

"I saw a German in front of me as I ran forward with the others in the charge," she said. "It was his life or mine. I raised my rifle. I plunged with all my strength. I stabbed him. The bayonet went deep into his body. At the same moment I pulled the trigger. He dropped dead. Then I took his hat as a souvenir."

The girl soldier smiled with delight. "What was the battle like?" another of the legionnaires was asked.

"I was very nervous just before the charge," she replied. "We knew the order was coming, and naturally we were just a little scared. But as soon as the orders to go forward came we forgot everything else in the advance."

"I could hear our girls yelling and shouting throughout the march forward. None of us were afraid once we got started. We were in the midst of a great fusillade of shots. Then terrific big shells began breaking all around us."

Stories of the Fight.

"We were again frightened a little when we first saw dead men about, but before very long we were jumping over the dead and quickly forgot all about them."

"We couldn't tell what was going on anywhere," said a third girl in describing the final stages of the battle.

"Commander Bochkoreva was everywhere, urging us to fight and die like real Russian soldiers."

Then the girl told how the legion took its first prisoners.

"As we ran forward we suddenly came upon a bunch of Germans immediately ahead of us. It was only a second until we were all around them."

Germans Surprised.

"They saw they were caught and threw down their rifles, holding up their hands. They were terribly frightened."

"Good God! Women!" they exclaimed.

"We saw wounded German soldiers raising themselves on their elbows and shooting," interjected another wounded girl. "We just forgot ourselves entirely. We were simply Russian, fighting for her life."

"The loss of Lena, the most popular member of our company, was keenly felt by all of us," she added soberly. "During the battle Lena heard that Commander Bochkoreva had been killed. She hurried forward into the shell fire, saying she was going to find her. We saw her go through one space literally strewn with exploding shells; then through the smoke and flames we saw her blown to fragments."

"We also lost Sonia. She used to be a musician with the Romanoff concert organization. She was killed by machine gun fire."

Five of the German prisoners the girls captured were women, wearing the German soldier's uniform.

The number of women in all armies on the eastern front is believed to be growing steadily.

The Candelilla Plant.

The wax of the candelilla plant is used in making candles, phonograph records, wood and leather polishes, floor wax, certain varnishes, linoleum, rubber compounds and celluloid, and it also enters into use in pharmacy and in the making of electrical insulation. The candelilla plant grows on the poorest quality of soil, and before it was found to have a commercial value for the wax contained it was considered a pest.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule of Southern Railway passenger trains passing Reidsville.

SOUTHBOUND

No 29 Birmingham Special 12:45 a.m.
No. 31 Augusta Special .. 2:58 a.m.
No. 11 Richmond-Atlanta 5:35 a.m.
No. 37 New Orleans limited 6:29 a.m.
No. 45 Danville-Charlotte 11:35 a.m.
No. 35 U. S. Fast Mail .. 5:24 p.m.
No. 43 Washington-Atlanta 6:22 p.m.

NORTHBOUND

No. 30 Birmingham special 2:30 a.m.
No. 44 Charlotte-Washton 8:55 a.m.
No. 36 U. S. Fast Mail .. 1:56 p.m.
No. 46 Charlotte-Danville 8:42 p.m.
No. 32 Augusta special 11:13 p.m.
No. 12 Atlanta-Richmond 11:20 p.m.
No. 38 N. Y.-N. O. 11:49 p.m.

Nothing New Under Sun.

The strings of blue beads that the modern girl dons to ward off bronchitis are merely new versions of the strings of blue beads worn in Egypt 1600 years before Christ to keep diseases of the chest at bay, says a writer in the Philadelphia North American. The tiny sealed bottle of mercury which she carried to ward off rheumatics had its prototype in bottles of a strange elixir used in India 30 centuries and more ago.

Tree Sheds Water.

A tree which is said to shed water in abundance from its leaves and branches grows in the Philippines, where it is known as "acacla;" in Hawaii it is called "monkey pod."

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