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NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

The *Kiel Zeitung* says that 430,000 Iron Crosses have been conferred by the German Emperor since the beginning of the war. Each cross weighs 18 grams and is composed of half cast iron and half silver.

In June the maximum shade temperature taken at a hospital in the Suez Canal zone varied from 94° to 116°. The clinical thermometer had to be kept in ice water and the readings were taken while the instruments were still under the patients' tongues.

Special soap cards were issued in Berlin on August 1. Each user may have 50 grams, or 1.76 ounces of toilet, or shaving, soap and 8 ounces of soap powder per month. The issue of soft soap is forbidden. The penalty for disobeying the soap ticket regulations is a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months, or a fine not exceeding \$357.

Some of the German dugouts at Owilliers were models of comfort. They had six or eight communicating rooms and two separate stories. Some of the rooms were fifteen by thirty feet, furnished with spring beds, carpets, washing arrangements with water laid on, electric lights, tapestries to keep out draughts, and other luxuries. One dugout had nine entrances, beds for 110 men 30 feet below the surface, and a cook house with three large boilers.

A British general forwarded to London the report of his medical staff, which stated that in the captured trenches were found two completely equipped emergency hospitals, one 30, the other 50 feet underground. They were great rooms with every possible convenience, exhaust and direct fans, operating tables, walls lined with box board and floors of cement. With thousands of shells bursting overhead it was impossible to hear a sound.

During the advance of the Allied troops an elaborate scheme was worked out by the Royal Engineers for supplying the men with water, which was conveyed to them continuously and regularly.

The wife of Captain Paul König, commander of the German submarine liner *Deutschland*, is an Englishwoman whom he married fifteen years ago. At the beginning of the war when Mrs. König said that her sympathies were with her own countrymen, her husband replied, "Everyone must stand by his own country in these times. You would

not be worth your salt if you didn't, and I should not be worth my salt if I did not stand by mine." She returned to England and, though deeply attached to her husband, has not heard directly from him since that time.

A Danish newspaper states that Captain Valentiner, commander of the submarine that sank the *Lusitania*, has since that event been decorated with a number of German orders, including the Iron Cross of the First Class and the Hohenzollern House Order with swords, a special distinction which is the personal gift of the German Emperor.

An English paper commenting upon the utilization of waste material, says: Almost before the reck and fume of battle are over, almost before our own and the enemy's dead are all buried the Salvage Corps appears on the bloody and shell-scarred field to collect and pile unused cartridge and machine-gun belts, unexploded bombs, old shell cases, damaged rifles, haversacks, steel helmets and even old rags, which go to the base and are sold for \$250 a ton.

French and Belgian girls are employed to clean and repair worn and soiled uniforms, for which they receive the to-them satisfying wage of sixty cents a day. A Dublin bootmaker invented an ingenious contrivance by means of which the tops of old and otherwise useless boots are converted into boot laces.

The original of Lord Kitchener's letter asking for 300,000 recruits for the new armies has been sold for \$30,000 to Mr. Fenwick Harrison for the benefit of the Red Cross. A facsimile has been made, reproducing the original letter in every particular. It is printed by permission of the War Office on the official paper of the Minister of War. A special cover has been designed for it by an eminent artist and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has written a brilliant sketch of the writer. It is to be sold for the benefit of the Kitchener Memorial Fund and the Red Cross.

Nurses who have been rendered unfit for further service, owing to illness, or injury, contracted during their work in the military hospitals, are to receive a permanent recognition of their labors. They have been included among the possible recipients of the new silver badge approved by King George. It is in the form of a circle an inch and a quarter in diameter. The circle bears the words, "For King and Empire—services rendered." In the centre is the Imperial cipher, G. R. I., surmounted by a crown.

A lieutenant in the English Royal Flying Corps was brought down by a Fokker. He was cared for by two German Flight Officers and a letter to his father containing the news was dropped from a German machine over the British lines.