

HINDENBURG OUTLIVED ENTIRE EMPIRE, SERVED HIS NATION FAITHFULLY IN THREE WARS

Recalled Twice From Private Life to Take Helm of Nation, Once in Days of Conflict, Once in Times of Peace.

Paul Ludwig Hans Anton von Beneckendorff und von Hindenburg outlived the entire life span of an empire. He lived to serve his fatherland, and receive its greatest honors, long after his contemporaries were dead, or relegated to doddering senility.

Already Hindenburg was a seasoned soldier when he fought in the armies of Von Moltke that crushed France in 1871 and gave Prussia the prestige that enabled it to create an empire.

He was an old man, prepared to spend his remaining days in peace at Hanover, when his country recalled him to save it from Russian armies in 1914.

He became the hero of Tannenberg. He was made field marshal. But he saw the empire crumble, his Kaiser flee, and a republic established. Again he retired.

But again he was recalled—this time to serve as president of the German republic—and again he heeded the call of duty.

Thus the story of Paul von Hindenburg, who lived three lives for his country: Soldier, hero, statesman.

When Hindenburg completed the first of his three "lives" he was only an obscure lieutenant-general in a nation of military men.

He was born in Posen, East Prussia—a city he later was to see given to Poland by the Versailles treaty—Oct. 2, 1847, of a line which long had served the Hohenzollerns. His father was a soldier, his mother of old Prussian stock.

Joined Cadet Corps

Young Paul received his training at the gymnasium at Gross-Glogau, after which he joined the cadet corps at Wahlstadt.

He was a young lieutenant, just out of the military academy, when Prussia and Austria went to war in 1866. In the battle of Koeniggratz a bullet penetrated his spiked helmet and grazed his scalp. He was decorated for bravery in the battle of Sadowa.

In the Franco-Prussian war, Hindenburg, now risen to a captaincy, distinguished himself in the storming of St. Privat and was decorated for bravery at Sedan.

Four years later the future field marshal was selected for promotion to the general staff, the goal of all officers.

Married in 1879

Hindenburg married Gertrud von Sperling, Sept. 24, 1879. They had one son, Oskar, who later became a colonel and was aide de camp when his father was president. Hindenburg's wife died in May, 1921.

In the peaceful years that followed, Hindenburg studied military strategy and won gradual promotion. He became a major-general in 1900, a lieutenant-general in 1903. Then, in 1913, he retired, his period of usefulness apparently over.

But the following year at Sarajevo a shot was fired that quickly embroiled all Europe in war. Austria threatened Serbia, Russia came to her aid; Germany sided with Austria; France joined Russia; German armies entered Belgium; England declared war on Germany.

And soon Russian armies were striking deep on Germany on her eastern front.

This was the situation when Hindenburg was recalled to save Germany from Russia.

Executed Old Strategy

How he did it became history. Carefully executing an old strategy planned in the days when he was studying military tactics, the German line gave way while the Russians advanced into the Masurian Lake region.

Then the line snapped back and bewildered Russian leaders saw themselves overwhelmed. Thousands died in the marshes. The Russians were annihilated. About 100,000 were taken prisoner.

The battle of Tannenberg was won and Hindenburg, the "Mad Old Man of Masurian Lakes," was a popular hero. "Old Man"—and he was to be serving his country still, two decades later.

Hindenburg's success on the eastern front, ending the Russian threat, made him selection as chief of staff in 1916 inevitable. He took the post with a stern warning that the situation was serious, after the failure of German armies to take Verdun.

But soon the terrible Hindenburg line was deeply entrenched in France, with the combined forces of the allies fighting desperately to stem its advance.

Resigned From Army

The entry of the United States on the side of the allies eventually turned the tide. Germany was defeated. Kaiser Wilhelm II fled to Holland.

The German state became a republic under a constitution adopted at Weimar, and Fritz Ebert became its first president. Hindenburg, having stolidly attended to his duties in the chaos of the post war period, sent his resignation to Ebert.

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The Tragic Anniversaries

AUG. 2, 1914

Germany's Proposed Invasion of Belgium Brings Britain Closer to War.

Here's another brief chapter highlighting the events leading up to the World War.

BY MORRIS GILBERT
SEA Service Staff Writer

By Aug. 2, 1914, there's no mistaking the ominous war clouds rolling up on every European horizon. Ministries and war lords hastily compose their final ultimatums.

Paris—Learning that German patriots were penetrating into French territory, Premier Viviani protests to the German ambassador. 2:30 p. m. The ten-member retirement of French troops from the French frontier, previously instituted as a mark of good faith, is lifted.

Paris hears that German troops are penetrating Luxembourg.

Rome—The council of ministers confirms the neutrality of Italy.

Brussels, 7 p. m.—The German ambassador hands the Belgian foreign minister a German ultimatum. Germany, it declares, persuaded that the French army would pass through Belgium, determines to prevent "an enemy attack." Germany foresees no hostile attitude on Belgium's part, and will respect its territorial integrity at the end of the war, if Belgium maintains "friendly neutrality." If Belgium denies free passage for German troops, Germany will consider Belgium as an enemy.

King Albert of Belgium rejects the ultimatum. At the same time he appeals to King George for a diplomatic intervention.

London, Midday—Sir Edward Grey learns of the rejection of the ultimatum.

May 1, 1919, and turned again to retirement, and old man.

This time his retirement lasted six years. During this "armchair period" he wrote his memoirs, "Out of My Life," which were published in 1920.

It was in 1925 the Fatherland called a third time to Paul von Hindenburg. The voice was really not that of the Fatherland; just the voice of some nationalists who thought the aged war leader was already senile and could be used as their tool. They were to experience bitter disillusionment in this regard.

Cool Reception

A deputation visited Hindenburg's home in Hanover. He received them coolly; he shook their hands and then stood at the window, his back upon them, leaving them to commence their speeches of invitation.

As if not hearing them, Hindenburg suddenly cut them short.

"Nasty weather today," he observed in a booming voice. The deputation was speechless.

"I know, gentlemen," he continued. "You want to offer me the presidential candidacy. I accept. Thank you." And with that he dismissed the delegation.

Hindenburg was elected, the first popularly chosen president of the German reich. Fritz Herbert, his predecessor, had been elected by a vote of the national assembly at Weimar. Hindenburg received the returns by mounted courier at his Hanover estate, disdaining to get them by telegraph, radio or through the press.

Monarchistic Coup Feared

Grave fears were expressed in the allied press that Hindenburg's election presaged a monarchistic coup. But Hindenburg, although at heart a monarchist, had vowed to uphold the Constitution and like a good soldier, answered the call of duty.

Soon the newspapers, which had been most concerned over his election, saw in him the chief hope of stemming the rising power of Adolf Hitler.

Hindenburg's great calm in a period of stress won him the confidence of the entire nation. In 1922 he was re-elected over Hitler. Repeatedly, when cabinet crises came, he held out against the Nazi fanatic who wanted to be chancellor, but the day came when the Nazi tide overwhelmed him. Hitler was appointed chancellor Jan. 30, 1933.

Finally Just Figurehead

With Hitler's ascension to power Hindenburg was relieved of responsibilities until the Nazi was dictator and the aged general little more than a figurehead whose death scarcely would be missed in the political arena.

He was forced into semi-retirement—where he twice had been called to save the German people from a mess. He attended fewer state functions, appeared infrequently at reviews. He divided his time between the presidential palace on the Wilhelmstrasse and his estate at Neudeck, given him and his male heirs forever, tax exempt, by the German people.

Despite his military background, Hindenburg as president said he believed the German people desired peace.

Saw Three Wars

"Prosperity can come through peace alone," he told an interviewer in 1929. "The German people are in favor of all possible means to make war impossible. I have seen

three wars. A man who has seen three wars never will wish another war. He must be a friend of peace.

"But I am not a pacifist. All my impressions of war are so bad that I could be for it only under the sternest necessity—the necessity of fighting Bolshevism or of defending one's country.

"There is a possibility that wars may altogether cease—also that there will be more wars. Experience teaches that the affairs of the world do not always go as one wishes. But one may hope that we have seen the last great war."

In the same interview he explained how he could serve as republican president in the light of his monarchist leanings.

"I always have been a monarchist. In sentiment, I still am. Now it is too late for me to change. But it is not for me to say that the new way is not the better way, the right way. So it may prove to be."

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KING GEORGE AND KING ALBERT STOOD SOLIDLY AGAINST GERMANY'S ULTIMATUM.

In parliament that afternoon, he exposes the facts of the Anglo-French military and naval convention, hitherto undisclosed, forming it a simple "entente" and not an "alliance." Then, suddenly, he reveals the terms of Germany's ruthless ultimatum, in violation of the guarantees of neutrality in force since 1839. Grey demands of Berlin the withdrawal of the ultimatum to Belgium. Failing a satisfactory answer, the British ambassador was to demand his passports.

Berlin—Bethmann-Hollweg describes the treaty of guarantee of Belgian neutrality "a simple scrap of paper."

Next: "A world at war."

HINDENBURG STAYS MONARCHIST TO END

Marshal Had Reconciled Self to 'New Order.'

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—Marshal von Hindenburg remained a confirmed monarchist to his death, although he had reconciled himself to what he called the "new order."

Only recently he told an interviewer:

"As I have said on occasion before, I have always been a monarchist. In sentiment, I still am. Now it is too late for me to change. But it is not for me to say that the new way is not the better way, the right way. So it may prove to be."

DISLIKED CADET LIFE IN BOYHOOD DAYS

Later Branded Training as "Intentionally Harsh."

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—President Hindenburg once rebelled against a military career. As a youth, he disliked the rigorous life of the cadet corps and his mother found him one day tearfully huddled in his bedroom.

He begged to remain, but his mother was adamant. Sixty years later in his memoirs, he had not forgotten the incident. He characterized life in the cadet corps as "intentionally harsh."

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TOOK TO HUMOR TO DISPEL LEGENDS OF HIS LONG CAREER

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—President von Hindenburg disliked hearing some of the legends built up around his career and resorted to humor some times to explode them.

Once a group of newspaper men said to him:

"All your life you have been a man of iron will and self-control. We would like to ask what you do when you feel yourself getting nervous?"

"The answer is very simple," the old warrior replied. "I whistle."

Silence followed. Then a spokesman remarked: "But no one of us has ever heard you whistle."

"Is it possible?" Von Hindenburg replied with feigned surprise. "It's surprising—but now that I come to think of it, neither

MAIRIAL GODFATHER TO 14,000 CHILDREN

Also Was Honorary First Citizen of 172 German Cities.

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—President von Hindenburg was honorary first citizen of 172 German cities and towns and godfather to 14,000 German youngsters.

The latter distinction cost him some \$70,000 in gifts in keeping with the old Prussian custom by which the head of the state gave a token to every seventh child in the family.

Kaiser Wilhelm II granted this honor to every seventh son, but Hindenburg generously included the girls as well.

HITLER TAKES SUPREME RULE OVER GERMANY

Nazi Leader Becomes 'Czar' After Death of Hindenburg.

(Continued From Page One)

the end, to what extent the aged, ailing president maintained personal control. The term "Hindenburg" has been used loosely to describe a little circle of military men, industrialists and Junkers who surrounded him and counseled him.

Brain Worked on

There were sufficient reports to make it certain his brain worked on while his body weakened.

He had gruff awareness of what was going on, to which he gave voice in his approximation of a mastiff's deep growl. He exercised to the end something of his honest stubbornness and canny wisdom.

All these thoughts ranged through Germans' minds as they pictured the old man lying dead at Neudeck, as arrangements were made for his state funeral Tuesday and his burial under the war memorial at Tannenberg where, already aged, he won his greatest triumph.

King Sends Regrets

LONDON, Aug. 2.—English officialdom headed by the king paid high tribute today to Paul von Hindenburg.

King George, apprised of Hindenburg's death, sent a message of condolence to the dead president's son.

Sir Ian Hamilton said: "I can not imagine any death in Europe whose effects might have graver results."

Winston Churchill, in a special article in today's Daily Mail, reviewed Hindenburg's career.

In war and peace he was "like a giant, slow-thinking, slow-moving, but sure, steady and faithful," Churchill said. "He was war-like but benign. This is no time to unravel the part he played in the melancholy, terrible convulsions into which Germany was thrown. It makes no addition to his fame."

Capital Apprehensive

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—News of President Paul von Hindenburg's death today was felt keenly in official and diplomatic circles here.

Apprehension was felt by some that the passing of the great field marshal might intensify Germany's troubles and spread further uneasiness in Europe. However, it was believed in general that assumption by Chancellor Adolf Hitler of the powers of the presidency indicated further strengthening of the Nazi regime.

Position Strengthened

(Copyright 1934, by United Press)

LONDON, Aug. 2.—Adolf Hitler, commander-in-chief of the German army!

That epitomized today the thought in the minds of Europe's leaders as they paid respects to Paul von Hindenburg.

As president the reichswahr (army) is Hitler's. This was regarded as of the highest significance to Germany and Europe. Soldiers are traditionally loyal to the constituted government.

It was held that Nazism by Hindenburg's death was immensely strengthened.

The reichswahr, as viewed in Europe's capitals, is becoming more and more the really dominant force in the state. In the view of many observers, Hitler's succession

Fired From Army for Slur on Kaiser's Ability

Disliked by Colleagues in Military Career for Blunt Manner.

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—During his military career, Paul von Hindenburg was disliked by his colleagues because of his blunt and uncommunicative manner.

One incident of his outspoken manner was responsible for a setback in his career. He ridiculed some maneuvers designed by the Kaiser.

It was soon after this incident he was given to understand his resignation would be accepted.

He retired. He went to his home in Hanover and lived the life of a retired Prussian officer. He spent his evenings at his favorite restaurant, eating copiously, reading his favorite newspaper, and repelling all attempts at conversation. He played chess to keep alive the instinct for military strategy.

When the World war broke out he applied for a post as corps commander, his old rank, but was curiously refused. The Kaiser had not forgotten the slur on his own military ingenuity.

Then came the invasion of Germany by Russia. The imperial military councils had to have Hindenburg. He won the battle of Tannenberg and became overnight the military hero of Germany.

Highlights in Career of Hindenburg

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—Here are highlights in the career of President Hindenburg of Germany.

Born in Posen in 1847.

Served as subaltern in Austro-Prussian war in 1866 and was decorated for heroic action at three battles of Sadowa. As Captain in the Franco-Prussian war in 1870, he distinguished himself in the storming of St. Privat.

Was decorated for bravery at Sedan.

Studied military tactics from 1872 to 1875.

Promoted to general staff in 1875. Promoted to major-general in 1900, lieutenant-general in 1903. Retired in 1911 and was recalled to service in 1914.

Distinguished himself in 1914 by winning decisive battle of Tannenberg, East Prussia, in which three Russian armies were annihilated.

Appointed in chief of staff to succeed General von Falkenhayn, after living in retirement after the war, was persuaded by nationalist leaders in 1925 to be presidential candidate. He was elected, and re-elected over Adolf Hitler in 1932.

LUTZ EXPLAINS LAW ON BARBERS' TESTS

Rules Physical Examinations Not Required Annually.

Indiana barbers are not required to submit to an annual physical examination under terms of the barber licensing act, according to Attorney-General Philip Lutz Jr. One physical examination is sufficient, although the board may require examinations in individual cases, it was explained.

to the presidency may foreshadow a military dictatorship in event the masses slip from his grip.

As supreme commander of the finest trained army in the world, made up of men from private to field marshal who have dedicated their lives to their country as represented by the government, Hitler was believed to have a much stronger grip on Germany.

It was not believed that his accession would terminate Germany's pronounced isolation.

The key to Germany's situation was seen as the economic problem, which remains and grows worse. Standards of living are sinking. Imports are throttled. Crops are bad. The task of keeping up the currency is becoming urgent.

MARSHAL KEPT STRICT ROUTINE

Adhered to Regular Schedule While at Palace in Berlin.

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—President von Hindenburg adhered to a regular daily routine while at the presidential palace at Berlin.

He arose at 7 a. m.; in summer, shortly after 6.

At 9:30 he received reports of the overnight political developments from the secretary of state.

An hour later the chief of the government press department reported on the news of the German and foreign press.

Following this the day's receptions and conversations began.

Business of state was broken for lunch and an hour immediately following, when the president took his daily siesta.

After the afternoon's callers and state papers were disposed of, the president took a walk in the garden, prior to dinner at 7:30.

After dinner it was Hindenburg's custom to light his long porcelain pipe and assume the role of grandfather, playing with his son's children.

At 11 p. m. the palace lights were dark.

PERSHING PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO OLD FOE

Conduct in War "Masterly," Says United States Hero.

By United Press

PARIS, Aug. 2.—General John J. Pershing paid tribute today to President von Hindenburg, who directed the German army against the forces commanded by Pershing.

"Marshal von Hindenburg will long be remembered as one of the outstanding figures of the World war," Pershing said when informed of the Reich leader's death. "His masterly conduct of the campaign on the eastern front marked him as a great general. His devotion to Germany and her people, whether in military or civil capacity, was his most striking characteristic."

President Disliked Publicity

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—Publicity, which almost invariably was favorable, never was welcomed by Hindenburg. Mention of his name in print, especially if it involved praise, always put him slightly out of humor.

VON HINDENBURG REAL 'IDOL' OF ALL GERMANY

Estate at Neudeck Given Marshall by Nation Tax Free.

By United Press

BERLIN, Aug. 2.—President von Hindenburg was held in extraordinary affection by the German nation.

His estate in Neudeck, East Prussia, was given him by the nation to be held tax free by himself and his male heirs.

His mail averaged 200,000 letters a year, mostly of greeting, some of complaint, and a few telling him how to run his job.

He received thousands of gifts every year on his birthday and at Christmas. These ranged from smudgy portraits of himself, drawn with crayons by school children, to sausages and fish.

Each year on New Year's day he received an offering of salt, homemade bread and wurst from a deputation of salt miners from Halle. This was a tradition carried over from the days of the empire.

KAISER MOURNS DEATH OF GERMAN PRESIDENT.

Wilhelm Wires Condolences to Von Hindenburg's Son.

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DOORN, Holland, Aug. 2.—Former Kaiser Wilhelm II, who twenty years ago today watched from a palace window German troops marching to death or glory, sent from his place of exile at Doorn house today condolences to President Paul von Hindenburg's son.

He wired direct to the son, Colonel Oskar von Hindenburg, at Neudeck, saying:

"The Kaiser and Kaiserin are mourning, with sad hearts, with you and the entire German nation. The life which has been blessed by God has found its destination. The crown prince will honor the dead in Neudeck, and bring to you the last greeting to the hero of Tannenberg