

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.

Recalled Again

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 late in life 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 aid 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 at 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. Craftily 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 his 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
NEA 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-meter 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, will pass through Belgium, determine 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 paper.

Next: A world at war.

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 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 have I."

MARSHAL 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 an old Prussian custom by which the head of the state gave tokens 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.

three wars. A man who has seen three wars will never 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 they 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 a 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."

Consider the Railroads

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 president maintained personal control. The term "Hindenburg" has been used loosely to describe a little circle of military 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 vent 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, and 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

By United Press

LONDON, Aug. 2.—English officials, 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 benignant. 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

By United Press

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)

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

That epitomized today the mind of the world as they paid respects to Paul von Hindenburg.

As president the reichswhir (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 reichswhir, 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 curtly refused. The kaiser had not forgotten the slur on his own military ingenuity.

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

His mail averaged 200,000 letters a year, mostly of greeting, some of complaint, and few telling him how he was.

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 salt miner from salt mines 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.

(Copyright 1934, by United Press)

DOERLICH, Holland, Aug. 2.—Former Kaiser Wilhelm II, who twenty years ago today was welcomed from a palace window by German troops marching to death or glory, sent from his place of exile at Doorn his son 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 kaisersin 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, now gone to his last resting place."

(Signed)