

Personal Bravery Of King George V. Heartened Soldiers

The King's Illness Recalls Many Things That Have Endured His Majesty to the People of the Empire

BRAVE UNDER FIRE

World-wide anxiety over King George's illness, during the past month, caused interest in many phases of his reign and in none more than that period covering the World War. The following article was written by one of the most brilliant of the war correspondents who followed the King's part in the great Sir Philip Gibbs, and appeared in the New York Times of record date.

You know, King and Country need you? No one, perhaps, will ever faintly guess the strain to mind and heart of the man who has been following the fate of all those millions of soldiers who had answered that call to arms. England was in deadly peril. The years were filling. Revolution was beginning to threaten old dynasties, and young men were dying on all fronts. We were hard pressed—over France, especially.

Eight months later the King visited the front again, and this time against the advice, and certainly against the will, of the commander-in-chief, and other generals, he insisted upon going closer into the danger zones and taking considerable risks in order to see the actual conditions of war and the battlefields which were still under fire.

The Prince of Wales, serving with the Guards, was with him, and I saw him go into the trenches and dugouts which had recently been captured by the enemy during the early battles of the Somme. And King showed up rules of the fighting and was intensely interested in the actual scene of battle, while he stood among our guns firing at the German lines plainly visible from the position where the King was standing. After this visit he sent a warm message to the French for "carrying the banner into the lines," now—and then, in memory of our own losses and said:

"Gentlemen, the King and were raised. In the trenches their leaders there was no room for manoeuvres of that kind. Death was very close. The King was thinking of them. He kept promises to men."

It was his promise at the beginning of the first Expeditionary Force that the King would write to his troops to express his confidence in God to guard them.

"Your welfare will never be absent from my thoughts," he wrote.

There is no man in the empire

who doubts that those words were fulfilled.

"All through those

years the King thought

only of the welfare of his troops

and the safety of the nation." His

advice to his officers was,

"Relax, rest, and let

yourself."

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