



# Kent Chronicles

## 1911-1918, Part 2

- ❖ **1911**-This Asian nation forms a republic after two millennia of Imperial rule (though republican rule would be confined to the island of Taiwan by 1949):
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- ❖ **1912**- These two states are admitted to the Union, becoming the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> states:
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- ❖ **1915**-German geophysicist Alfred Wegener first proposes the continental drift theory, which includes a “supercontinent” known as:
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- ❖ **1915**-A German U-Boat torpedoes and sinks this British ocean liner:
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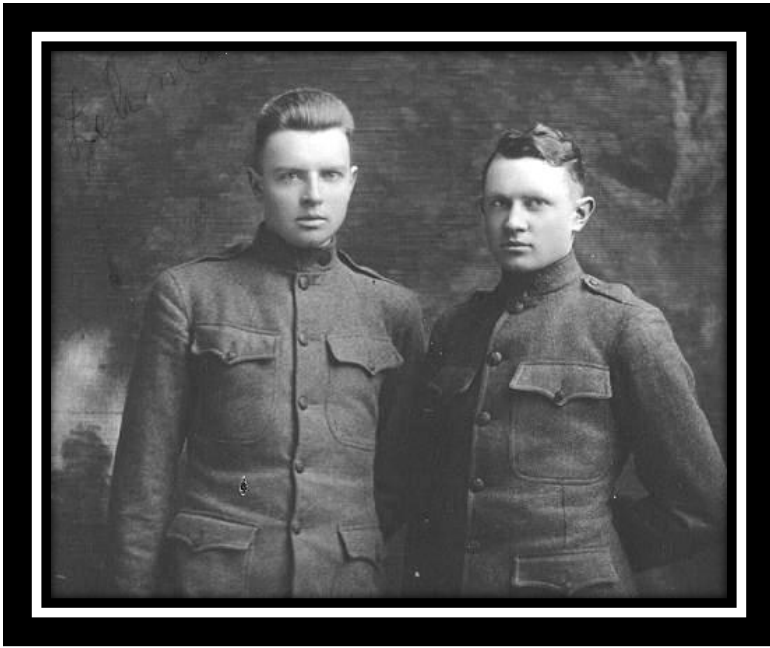
- ❖ **1917**-This empire straddling both Europe and Asia is transformed by a revolution, eventually becoming the Soviet Union:
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- ❖ **1918**-An estimated 50 million people are killed by this virus, five times as many as are killed in the Great War:
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- ❖ **1919**-This one-sided treaty is signed June 28, the official end to the War:
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- ❖ **1919**- The Eighteenth Amendment signs into law this “Noble Experiment” in the United States:
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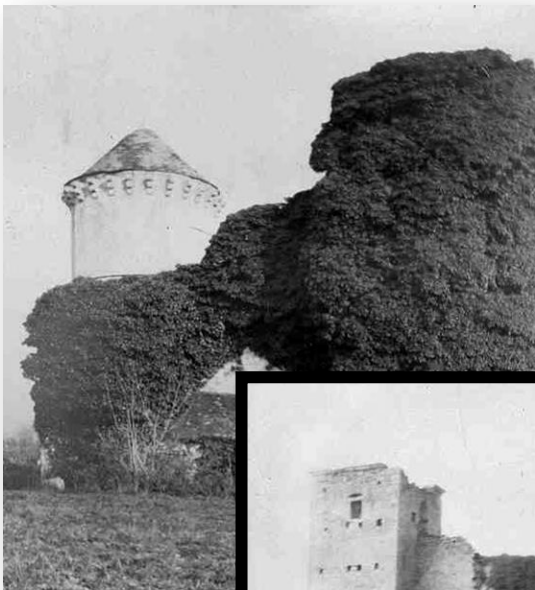
# KENT IN WAR TIME

1917 ~ 1919





The photos on this page were taken by Matilda "Til" Rasmussen (pictured on the previous page, top right) during her time as an Army nurse at Base Hospital 50 in the village of Mesves-sur-Loire in France during WWI.



This excerpt from a 1958 article by the Washington State Nurses Association describes the role of Washington's nurses during WWI:



**T**HE WARNING “luxury nurses must be given up” was sounded by WSGNA as the impact of War was felt in this country. The need for nurses in the armed services and the public demands for the development of public health work in the home communities placed a heavy burden on the nursing profession. Until the War there had been more than enough private duty nurses to handle the paid cases. Then, with the sudden call for nurses to “join the colors” their numbers became alarmingly depleted.

National recruitment for nurses was done solely by the Red Cross. When the War was declared on April 6, 1917, the shortage of nurses in the armed services was appalling. There were only 400 registered nurses on active duty in the Army Nurse Corps and approximately 160 in the Navy Corps. Nurses immediately recognized their responsibility in the emergency situation. When the War ended it was estimated that approximately twenty-four thousand had served their country.

Based on the photos, how many soldiers would you guess were in the hospital during a given month? What is the most interesting thing about the photos to you?

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The article claims that about 24,000 nurses served in WWI. Does this number surprise you?

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ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Sun. P.M., Nov. 12 1918

My Darling Mama and folks,  
Kumrah! Mama, we do not  
hear any more guns firing!  
Yesterday at 11 o'clock A.M. we  
heard the last shot. I do not  
think there will be any more fighting  
at all, although, as you know,  
peace is not yet really declared.  
We were in the lines when the  
fighting was stopped, and, believe  
me we were a happy bunch.  
I am well fine and dandy  
have not recd. even a scratch.  
I hope that you are all well  
and that this letter finds you  
well. I hope it will not be long  
now before I can come back  
to you. I understand we are  
going to follow up the Hunks  
as they fall back.

will be a few  
least, before we  
ing home.  
I have to fight  
we can have  
and a fire if  
then we go to  
to get up  
to rights to  
her copy of the  
last Sat. I  
you, stated,  
you had  
for two  
though you  
hope you get  
you. Tell  
the folks.  
soon.

W. P. Ames  
Capt U.S. Army

Your Loving Son, Fred  
Pat. Fred W. Leber  
Co. A 119 M & Bn  
Am. E. F. A P. O. 734  
Frankie.

This is a second letter from Frank Leber, serving in the U.S. Army in France, to his family back home in Kent. It is dated November 12, 1918. A full transcript is on the following page.

Tues. PM, Nov. 12, 1918

My Darling Mama and folks:

Hurrah! Mama, we do not hear any more guns firing! Yesterday at 11 o'clock AM we heard the last shot. I do not think there will be any more fighting at all, although, as you know, peace is not yet really declared.

We were in the lines when the fight was stopped, and believe me, we were a happy bunch. I am well, fine and dandy, have not rec'd [*received*] even a scratch.

I hope that you are all well and that this letter finds you well. I hope it will not be long before I come back to you. I understand we are going to follow up the Huns as they fall back, so I suppose it will be a few months yet, at least, before we can think of going home.

But, when we don't have to fight, it is not so bad, we can have a light nights and a fire if we want and when we go to sleep we won't have to get up in the middle of the night to move. I rec'd another copy of the L Digest today. Last Sat. I got a letter from you dated Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. You said you had not heard from me for two weeks. No doubt, though you have before this. I hope you got the pictures I sent you. Tell R.A. hello and all the folks.

Will write again soon.

Lots of love to all of you.

From your Loving Son,

*Fred*

Pvt. Frederick Leber  
PO. A 119 M. G. Bm.  
Am. C. F. A. P. O. 734  
France

Is this letter what you would expect to read from a soldier whose fighting is finally over? What do you think you would want to write about in a letter to your family if you were in Fred's circumstances?

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# THE SUNDAY TIMES

October 15, 2006

## British spies in plot to save tsar

John Crossland



A NEWLY discovered diary has uncovered a plot by the British secret services to rescue the last tsar and his family from the house in Ekaterinburg where he was imprisoned by the communists and later executed.

The diary of Captain Stephen Alley, second in command of the British intelligence mission in Petrograd — now St Petersburg — shows he positioned four undercover agents ready to extract what he called “the valuables” — the deposed Tsar Nicholas II and the Russian imperial family — from the House of Special Purpose where they were held.

The diary also includes a sketch map drawn by Alley of the house and its surroundings.

It used to be believed that Britain had abandoned the tsar, his wife Alexandra — a granddaughter of Queen Victoria — and their children. But in recent

years evidence has emerged that both King George V and the government of David Lloyd George were willing to rescue the family. No evidence has previously come to light, however, of the advanced stage that preparations had reached.

Alley’s diary was found accidentally by his descendants in a trunk of his papers and will be featured in Queen Victoria’s Grandchildren, a documentary to be shown on Channel 4 in December.

The diary shows that, after they had been sprung from custody, the tsar and his family were to be taken by train to Murmansk and then shipped to safety by the Royal Navy.

On May 24, 1918, Alley, who was employed by MI1 (c), part of what became MI6, wrote to the War Office in London naming the six Russian-speaking officers he wanted to carry out the rescue. He asked London for a grant of £1,000 a month (about £25,000 today) due to “increased requirements for intelligence purposes”.

Andrew Cook, the historian who has examined the papers for the documentary, believes Alley’s telegrams to London may have been intercepted, leading the Bolsheviks to reinforce defences around the tsar’s prison. “At the first hint of a rescue the whole family would have been shot,” he said.

Alley’s apparent reluctance to activate the plot led to his sacking and recall to Britain. He worked for MI5 in the second world war and died in 1969 at the age of 93.



**Left:** The most famous of the photographs  
**Below:** The one photo out of the five that Elsie and Frances maintained to be real, not faked

# Cottingley Fairies

The Cottingley Fairies appear in a series of five photographs taken by Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths, two young cousins who lived in Cottingley, near Bradford in England. In 1917, when the first two photographs were taken, Elsie was 16 years old and Frances was 10. The pictures came to the attention of writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who used them to illustrate an article on fairies he had been commissioned to write for the Christmas 1920 edition of *The Strand Magazine*. Conan Doyle, as a spiritualist, was enthusiastic about the photographs, and interpreted them as clear and visible evidence of psychic phenomena. Public reaction was mixed; some accepted the images as genuine, but others believed they had been faked.

