

'BLACK RECORD'
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Issue No. 1072..9..6..1941.
Title: Cat & The Canary.
Tracks: Light That Failed...Devil O' The Deep.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Ditto.

The country house at Doorn has lost its squire. To live in exile, at Hitler's pleasure, was the strange fate of the ex-Kaiser in the last year of his life. He was 82. Princess Hermine, whom he married at Doorn, survives him.

In the half-forgotten world of German principalities and continental monarchies the Kaiser boasted and swaggered for 26 years before the Great War. Bearded old Leopold of the Belgians was still on the royal scene. So was the ancient Franz-Joseph of Austria, whose tottering Empire, like his half-comic Imperial Guard, had outlived its day.

There too was Ferdinand of Bulgaria; on the left, Alexander of Serbia.

The Tsar of Russia - here with the Tsarina and the little Tsarevitch - was the only Continental monarch who had no fear of the Kaiser's threats. Royalty was so strong, nobody dreamt that in a few years there would not be one monarch of consequence on the mainland of Europe.

To feign friendship with Albert of the Belgians suited the Kaiser's book in the diplomatic manoeuvres before the war. Though hating Britain he lavished apparent affection on the Prince and Princess of Wales (later King George and Queen Mary) when they visited Berlin.

The Empress (here greeting the Princess) died in exile in 1921.

King Edward VII (with King Victor of Italy in this picture) had no illusions about his nephew, Kaiser William. He knew that he hated Britain and that, unchecked, German policy meant war.

In the fateful summer of 1914 the vain, boastful, unprincipled and fundamentally weak German Kaiser reviewed his crack cavalry, the Uhlans, on the field that is now Tempelhof aerodrome. Twenty-five years of sabre-rattling were about to bear fruit. Next time his army was in field-grey, in France, at war, unconsciously embarked on the steep slope leading to the greatest defeat in military history. For four years the Kaiser posed as a War Lord, trampled the weak under foot - and then quit. He had brought not victory but Communism. Lenin imposed his iron will on Russia and tried to force communism on the whole world.

Italy's answer to Lenin was the March on Rome - the Duce a

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Kaiser Dies at Doorn ...continued.

slightly scared figure in his best clothes.

Mussolini and Fascism might have been harmless enough but for the rise of a more powerful dictator. Hitler came to power.

At Doorn the Kaiser died, unpunished - he who caused ten millions to die. We let another German rise in his place. Next time perhaps we shall know better.