

HORRORS OF WAR LIFT AS ENEMY MAKES QUICK RETREAT: MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES SAFE

...dug up to keep up with their...
 ...columns of turbulent traffic...
 ...the guns and transports...
 ...three nations following up the...
 ...bringing up food and ammu...
 ...and men and more men...
 ...the pursuit is not a dashing charge...
 ...men shout to each other in three...
 ...squares to clear the way, and ease...
 ...themselves by furious shouts and...
 ...gusts of laughter, because it is all...
 ...so slow.
 ...But it is too fast for the enemy...
 ...Before he is ready to leave our men...
 ...are on his heels. Our horse artillery...
 ...is bringing along his tracks before he...
 ...can escape with his heavy loads. His...
 ...rear guards are captured before the...
 ...main body is out of danger.
 ...It is very slow, this pursuit, when...
 ...seen from our side of things, but...
 ...quick as hurrying death to masses of...
 ...German soldiers.
Find Good Roads
 ...It quickens between that all deep belt...
 ...of strife, for beyond that there are good...
 ...roads except where the Germans have...
 ...blown great craters, and I went for...
 ...many miles throughout country where...
 ...there are unshelved fields, where there...
 ...are cabbage patches and neat farmsteads...
 ...and cottage gardens and villages with...
 ...red-tiled roofs and houses with glass...
 ...windows unbroken—glass, by all the...
 ...roads—so that they seem like precious...
 ...jewels to eyes tired of rubbish heaps that...
 ...were fair towns, like Ypres.
 ...In one small Flemish town to which...
 ...I went, Iaghem, between Courtrai and...
 ...Thielt, there was no a house that...
 ...showed any sign of war, though there...
 ...had been fierce machine-gun fighting...
 ...outside its streets, and there were little...
 ...Flemish shops with tawny things in the...
 ...windows and a big market square, and...
 ...convents and colleges with solid walls...
 ...and not a single shell hole anywhere.
 ...Long columns of Belgian gunners...
 ...drove through the streets, and they were...
 ...received as conquering heroes by some...
 ...of their country people, who lined the...
 ...pavements and stood out of the windows...
 ...of the upper stories and stood in their...
 ...thresholds.
 ...Almost every house door, I believe, since...
 ...that had been hidden in the cellars since...
 ...four years, until this day should come...
 ...and women and children ran into the

roadway and gave flags to the Belgian...
 ...gunners, who hung them on their ladders.
Franciscan Friar Danes
 ...I think I must have been the first...
 ...man in Ighaki to be seen by these Bel...
 ...gian people since their rescue by the...
 ...French and Belgians, for I shared an...
 ...oat on with a French officer, who was...
 ...with me. "Vive la France!" and "Vive...
 ...l'Angleterre!" Were cried out by old...
 ...men and women and young girls and...
 ...children. Every man and boy waved his...
 ...cap. A Franciscan friar in his brown...
 ...habit and sandals feet, with big beads...
 ...hanging from his belt, was actually...
 ...dancing from his doorway from sheer...
 ...joy, and other monks waved their hands...
 ...and heads.
 ...I spoke with some young priests who...
 ...are professors at a college there, and...
 ...asked them some questions. "How had...
 ...the Germans behaved? What did they...
 ...think of things?"
 ..."Sir," said one of those priests, in...
 ...good English, "I cannot tell you what...
 ...I have suffered. I dare not tell you...
 ...but I should break down and weep...
 ...which would be bad on this day of joy...
 ...The Germans were hard with us. We...
 ...had no liberty of any kind and were...
 ...under iron oppression. We were not...
 ...allowed to go even to the markets of...
 ...our friends or from one village to an...
 ...other. We had no news of the outside...
 ...world except what was in the German...
 ...papers, and but for the Spanish and...
 ...Dutch relief committees our people would...
 ...have died of hunger."
Good Germans Among Bad
 ..."There were good Germans among...
 ...those in this town; let us tell the truth...
 ...about that. There were men who hated...
 ...the war and all its cruelties, but it is...
 ...their education and their military sys...
 ...tem which makes them brutal and un...
 ...sensitive to human suffering."
 ..."The officers were worse and, in spite...
 ...of the iron discipline which made their...
 ...men salute them with rigid faces, these...
 ...German soldiers hate their officers with...
 ...a deadly and fierce hatred and one day...
 ...will wreak their vengeance."
 ...These priests told me that during re...
 ...cent days the Germans have made no...
 ...discipline that they are lost.
 ..."It is finished with us," they said.
 ..."There is no end but in our defeat."
 ...Even the officers admitted that the...
 ...tide had turned and that their only hope...
 ...was peace.
 ...At Roulers I met some French officers...
 ...and men who had found their way into...
 ...this town, a fine old Flemish town, with...
 ...a tall belfry and spacious market...
 ...square and many old churches with...
 ...noble towers. The Germans did not...
 ...want to leave this place. They fought...
 ...for it hard, grinding it with machine...
 ...guns and having many field batteries

to protect it. But the French forced...
 ...their way around on two sides, and on...
 ...the third side a French battalion wait...
 ...ed to get the signal that they should...
 ...attack frontally.
March Miles to Battle
 ...Some of these men were machine...
 ...gunners who had marched twenty-one...
 ...miles before reaching their line of at...
 ...tack, and then they had to wait under...
 ...very fierce gunfire. But at last they...
 ...sprang up and went forward into Rou...
 ...lers.
 ...There was a dreadful sweep of bul...
 ...lets in the streets from German ma...
 ...chine guns and one party of them, with...
 ...a young officer I met this morning...
 ...came face to face with an old battery...
 ...in the street. The German gunners fired...
 ...six rounds. Then one of them shouted...
 ...out: "Don't shoot! Don't shoot! I...
 ...am an Abbatian," and he made the oth...
 ...ers surrender and took his own lieu...
 ...tenant prisoner.
 ...As soon as the French entered Roulers...
 ...the Belgian people emerged from their...
 ...cellars, and with cries of joy ran toward...
 ...the soldiers and embraced them. One...
 ...officer I met, a commandant and a most...
 ...calm looking soldier, was a priest be...
 ...fore the war and was canon with the...
 ...cathedral of Besancon and a professor...
 ...at that college.
 ..."It was the first time I had ever been...
 ...embraced by a girl since I became a...
 ...priest," he told me laughing, and I...
 ...said:
 ..."Hullo, my little one, this will never...
 ...do," and I pretended to box her ears...
 ...before telling her I had no right to her...
 ...lips. But, after all, it was a kiss of...
 ...peace, and I was not really angry about...
 ...it.
 ...The Mayor came rushing up and said:
 ..."Be careful, for God's sake! This...
 ...town is mined."
 ...And truly enough there were big...
 ...charges of dynamite and trench mortar...
 ...bombs, twenty bombs to each frightful...
 ...charge, in the belfry and under the...
 ...towers of other churches and at cross...
 ...roads; but by some freak of careles...
 ...ness, perhaps because they had no other...
 ...men, the German commander of Roulers...
 ...had left his mine to be done by sol...
 ...diers who did not carry out their orders...
 ...except at cross-roads and under one...
 ...church tower. The glorious old belfry...
 ...of Roulers still stands.
Roulers Only a Shell
 ...And all the town stands, so that it...
 ...is still fair to see from the outside with...
 ...its beautiful Flemish houses. But each...
 ...house was gutted before the Germans...
 ...left. They stripped off the paneling...
 ...took away doors and window panes, and...
 ...every bit of furniture, so that Roulers

is nothing but a shell and there is...
 ...nothing left to the inhabitants.
 ...The Germans wished to send every...
 ...body away and threatened to turn them...
 ...out at the bayonet's point, but many...
 ...hid. One man I met hid for ten days...
 ...with four comrades in the chimney of a...
 ...factory and others refused to go and...
 ...showed such passionate emotion that...
 ...the German garrison was afraid to...
 ...enforce the order.
 ...There was an astounding situation at...
 ...Courtrai. Our Irishmen had been feeling...
 ...their way close to it with a sharp fight...
 ...ing at Heule and other places north...
 ...before them when their progress became...
 ...too hard, and last night they gained...
 ...possession of that quarter of the town...
 ...which is divided by the canal from the...
 ...main streets and the market place, and...
 ...the famous old belfry which has rung...
 ...out the history of Courtrai for many...
 ...hundreds of years in triumph and...
 ...tragedy.
 ...Some engineers tried to rain bridge...
 ...heads across the canal by building...
 ...towers while they were swept by machine...
 ...gun fire from the opposite bank, and...
 ...succeeded in doing this, so that some...
 ...of our men crossed by night, and...
 ...in most deadly risk.
Blown From One Room to Other
 ...One officer of ours forced his way into...
 ...a house where there were some Germans...
 ...with trench mortars, and when he was...
 ...blown out of one room he went into...
 ...another, and was blown out of that...
 ...and then into a trench near the house.
 ...It was far too deadly a place for our...
 ...men to stay in small numbers and they...
 ...were drawn back to the west side of...
 ...the canal, where they remained yester-

day. Still, I understand they are hold...
 ...ing at least a third of Courtrai on that...
 ...side. Among those now in the town are...
 ...the Queens and Middlesex.
 ...What makes an astonishing drama...
 ...here is that Courtrai is filled with be...
 ...tween 25,000 and 40,000 civilians. There...
 ...again, the enemy tried to force them to...
 ...leave, and sent away any able-bodied...
 ...boys and men between fourteen and...
 ...sixty, but could not induce large num...
 ...bers of others to go, now that they...
 ...knew the English were so close up.
 ...Many men hid themselves. Others...
 ...adopted an attitude of passive resis...
 ...tance, and the German soldiers were...
 ...afraid to use force. All the women...
 ...except a few well-to-do people who went...
 ...away to Brussels, remained to take the...
 ...risk of bombardment with liberty as...
 ...the great prize of courage, so that a...
 ...vast population is still there, for the...
 ...most part on the other side of the city...
 ...beyond the canal, waiting and watching

for the moment when the Germans leave...
 ...and our troops enter to rescue them.
Many People Come Through Lines
 ...But from the west side of the canal...
 ...many people are coming through our...
 ...lines, and our machine-gunners lying in...
 ...ditches and behind walls and in newly...
 ...dug trenches, see women with perambu...
 ...lators coming toward them and old...
 ...women hobbling up with children at...
 ...their skirts and men trudging slowly...
 ...among the patter of machine-gun bul...
 ...lets. Some of these civilians have been...
 ...killed, but the enemy is letting them...
 ...escape, and they only have to run the...
 ...risk of chance shots.
 ...They tell the tale of their sufferings...
 ...like those others I have seen, but they...
 ...have hope that their beautiful old city...
 ...will not be destroyed, because the Ger...
 ...man soldiers themselves say they will...
 ...not blow it up, in spite of orders. Ger-

man gunners are also sparing the place...
 ...and are only shelling the outposts and...
 ...approaches.
 ...It was a wonderful day in this war...
 ...and it will be followed by others, when...
 ...our Allied troops will enter many his...
 ...toric towns and give back to France and...
 ...Belgium half of the country that has...
 ...been so long divorced from them. The...
 ...enemy's retreat will now go fast and...
 ...from hundreds of thousands of hairs...
 ...scared if not broken by this war's long...
 ...agonies, there is going up a cry of joy...
 ...because the enemy is departing and lib-

erty is theirs again, and tidings of...
 ...those they love on our side of the lines...
 ...and peace for them, however long the...
 ...war will last.
BERLIN UNENDURABLE
Argentine Legation in Germany
Worried by Situation
 ...Buenos Aires, Oct. 18.—The Foreign...
 ...office has received a dispatch from...
 ...the Argentine legation in Berlin say...
 ...ing that the present situation in Ger...
 ...many is unendurable.

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October 16, 1918

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There are approximately 30,000 commercial cars in operation in the state. If you drivers will stop your motors during idle periods and when your trucks are standing at the curb, you will contribute nearly half the total or 2,250,000 gallons

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