

GREAT STRENGTH OF FRENCH ARM

Three Million Troops Held Reserve.

TOTAL FORCE IS 6,000,000

Only One-half of Army Has Been Under Fire—Every Man in Reserves Under Thirty, Fully Trained, Adequately Equipped, Ready to March at Moment's Notice.

The Wall Street Journal publishes an article from Paris, which was mailed to the United States in order to escape the censor, that declares the French army consists not of 3,000,000 men, but double that number.

"Of these 6,000,000," says the article, "one-half has been under fire. The remaining 3,000,000 have not left our garrisons. Very few people in France realize that General Joffre holds this tremendous army in reserve. Every man of this 3,000,000 is under thirty and is fully trained and adequately equipped for battle, ready to march at a moment's notice."

"Opposed to the French 3,000,000 that have been under fire are not 1,500,000 Germans, but 2,500,000—not thirty army corps, but fifty-six."

Equal on Firing Line.

"With half a million British troops and about 100,000 Belgians, the allies have on the western battle front 3,600,000 men against 2,500,000 Germans. But owing to General Joffre's careful nursing of his troops, the forces actually on the firing line are roughly equal."

"Of the French 3,000,000 one-half are doing fighting, while the other half relieve them in the trenches and fill the gaps caused by casualties."

"The forces are stretched over a battle front which reaches 375 miles. About 1,000,000 French troops lie between the Argonne and Alsace. Of this number the army operating in the Verdun district totals 400,000. In Alsace there are 250,000 men. The remainder are in the lower Vosges passes and at various points on the Meuse. The long lines from Rheims to Arras, by way of Soissons and Roye, absorb most of the balance of 2,000,000, and the full 3,000,000 are accounted for when it is stated that French troops are also co-operating with the British around La Bassée, Armentières and Ypres."

Makeup of Army.

"The strength of the French army is 6,000,000, arrived at as follows: The active army includes three classes under the flag, or 1,500,000. With these go the reserve of the active army—that is, men of the four preceding classes, or 2,000,000. This gives 3,500,000 men, all under twenty-eight years. In addition, there are the first class territorials (under thirty), 500,000 in number, and the remaining 2,000,000 are made up of the 1914 and 1915 classes, already under the colors (about 1,000,000), colonial troops, Algerians, Moroccans, Senegalese, foreign volunteer corps (over 400,000) and the foreign legion."

"These 6,000,000 could be expanded to 8,000,000 by a general call to arms, such as was resorted to for the revolutionary wars in 1793. The additional 2,500,000 men would be made up of territorials between the ages of thirty and forty-five."

GERMANS CHARGE WITH THEIR GUNS UNLOADED.

Captain Forget Orders—Soldier, in Letter, Tells of Life in Trenches.

An incident of the war in northern France illustrating how implicitly the German soldier obeys the command of his superior officer is described in a letter from Michael Welly, a German soldier, to his brother, Max Welly, a professional wrestler, of New York city.

The Germans, according to this letter, dated Oct. 12, were entrenched between two small towns in northern France. One day the captain of the company in which Welly served gave the order to charge the enemy with fixed bayonets.

"Our captain forgot to add the order to load our rifles," said the soldier in his letter, "and, of course, no one loaded his gun. We started on a charge, but were unable to fire at the French men who withstood us. Our loss was terrible, and we had to retire."

"Conditions in the trenches," the letter continued, "are terrible. I would rather be under continuous fire or march thirty kilometers a day than lie for twenty-four hours in a trench. If we only had water it would not be so bad, but even that is impossible to get. We have money in our pockets, but nothing remains to be bought. The French townspeople are making money out of the German soldiers. I paid a mark for a small package of matches the other day which should have cost one-sixth as much."

"While our losses have been very great, I can say that the losses of the French have been greater. The Frenchmen have charged us many times, and for 150 yards in front of our trenches there are hundreds and hundreds of bodies of dead Frenchmen. There is a pile of 125 or more within twenty yards of the place where I am writing."

HOW GOOD HOPE LOST SEA FIGHT

Admiral's Account of Battle With German Squadron.

ATTACK BEGUN BY CRADOCK

Man Who Commanded Glasgow Off Chilean Coast Declares Range Was Too Great For Their Guns—Wounded Monmouth Soon Limped Away, Fire on Ships Lighted Sky.

The English admiralty has issued the report of Captain John Luce of the British light cruiser Glasgow on the battle with the German squadron off the Chilean coast.

The Glasgow, which left Coronel on the morning of the day of the battle, was advised by Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, commander of the British squadron, that the enemy's ships were to the northward. Toward evening the Glasgow sighted smoke and reported to Rear Admiral Cradock.

The British fleet formed in line ahead, the Good Hope leading, with the Monmouth, Glasgow and Otranto following. The enemy had turned south and were also in single line ahead, the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau leading. Admiral Cradock signaled the Glasgow, "I am going to attack the enemy."

"The enemy was at that time 15,000 yards away," says the report, "and maintaining this range, at the same time 'jamming' the wireless signals. The sun was setting immediately behind the British ships, and while it remained above the horizon the British had the advantage in light, but the range was too great. When the sun had set and the visibility conditions were altered the British ships were silhouetted against the after glow, and the falling light made the enemy difficult to see."

Germans Opened Fire.

"The Germans opened fire at 7 o'clock at 12,000 yards, followed in quick succession by the British. The growing darkness and heavy spray of the head sea made firing difficult, particularly for the main deck guns of the Good Hope and Monmouth."

"The enemy, firing salvos, got the range quickly, and their third salvo caused an outbreak of fire on the fore part of both ships, which were constantly on fire until 7:45 in the evening. At 7:50 an immense explosion occurred on the Good Hope amidships, the flames reaching 200 feet high. Total destruction must have followed."

"It was now quite dark. Both sides continued firing at the flashes of the opposing guns. The Monmouth was badly down by the bow and turned away to get her stern to the sea, signaling the Glasgow to that effect."

Lose Sight of Enemy.

"At 8:30 the Glasgow signaled to the Monmouth, 'The enemy is following us,' but received no reply. Under the rising moon the enemy's ships could be seen approaching, and as the Glasgow could render the Monmouth no assistance she proceeded at full speed to avoid destruction. At 8:50 we lost sight of the enemy. At 9:30 we observed flashes of fire, which were doubtless the final attack on the Monmouth."

"Nothing could have been more admirable than the conduct of the officers and men throughout, although it was most trying to receive a great volume of fire without a chance of adequately returning it. All kept perfectly cool. There was no wild firing, and discipline was the same as at battle practice. When the target ceased to be visible the gun layers spontaneously ceased fire."

"The serious reverse sustained has entirely failed to impair the spirit of the officers and the ship's company, and it is our unanimous wish to meet the enemy again as soon as possible."

DYING GIRL SINGS HYMN.

Youth Who Shot Her Hears Her Song of Death.

The last moments of Jennie E. McLaughlin, a sixteen-year-old girl who was shot by her former sweetheart, furnished one of the most dramatic scenes that the nurses and physicians at a Philadelphia hospital ever witnessed.

A doctor told the patient that she could not live. Her mother, who had been at the bedside almost constantly, since the shooting, began to weep, but the young girl smiled and told her mother not to be unhappy.

"I am going to a better world," she said, smiling, "and I wish you were coming with me. I am not unhappy and I have nothing to tell. The only thing I want to do before I go is to sing my favorite hymn."

She then lay back on her pillow and started to sing "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Doctors, nurses and patients in the ward were silent as the girl sang the first two stanzas. In the middle of the third her voice became weak and then failed her. A few minutes later she was dead.

One of those who heard the death song was James Fraley, the youth who fired the fatal shot and then sent a bullet into his own stomach. He was lying in a critical condition in another ward.

FRENCH ZOUAVES ON BATTLE LINE.



Photo by American Press Association.

Farmhouses in Flanders, usually of stone or brick, are used by combatants on both sides as forts.

Curious Laws in India.

Some of the old laws of Nepal, India, were curious. Killing cows ranked with murder as a capital offense, for instance. Every girl at birth was married with great ceremony to a betel fruit, which was then cast into a sacred stream. As the fate of the fruit was uncertain, the girl was supposed never to become a widow. To obtain divorce from a husband a wife had only to place a betel nut under his pillow and depart.

In Nepal the day is considered to begin when it is light enough to count the tiles on the roof or distinguish the hairs on a man's hand against the sky.—Exchange.

Fort Sumter.

For four years Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, resisted every attempt at its capture. For 280 days the fort was actually under fire. "The duration of the three principal and eight minor bombardments was altogether 157 days and 116 nights. The total weight of metal thrown against the fort from land and sea aggregated 3,500 tons, and of this great mass the fort was actually struck by 2,400 tons. The number of projectiles fired against the fort was 46,058.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Good Advice.

Lord Kitchener's answer to the young reporter who asked him for his autograph is wholesome advice for all autograph hunters. "Young man, go and make your own autograph worth having."—Youth's Companion.

China and Japan.

Japan was originally civilized by way of China. Today Japan sends men of science to instruct the Chinese.

GOING TO THE FRONT.

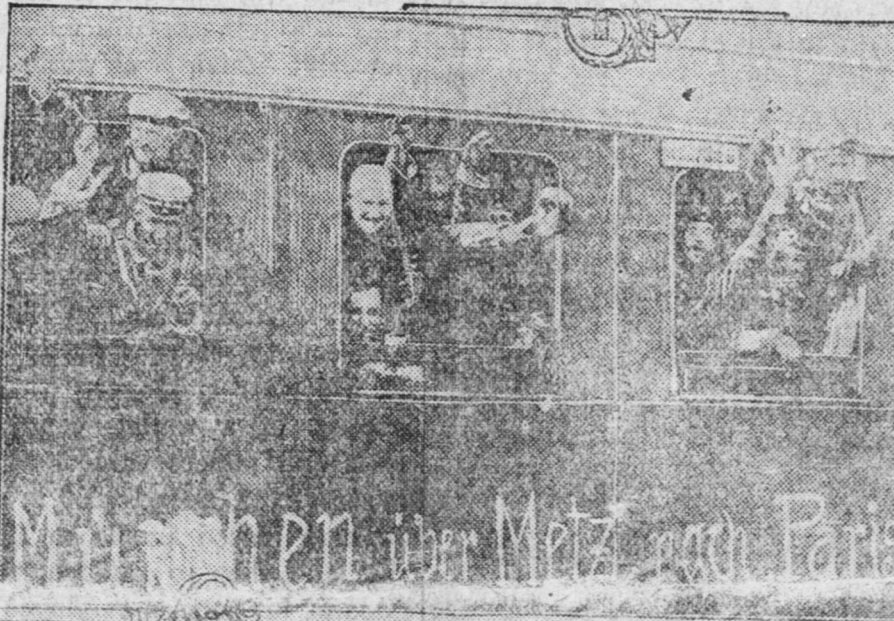


Photo by American Press Association.

This shows a regiment leaving Munich for the seat of war.

KING GEORGE REVIEWS CANADIAN TROOPS



Photo by American Press Association.

Accompanied by Queen Mary and Lord Kitchener, the English ruler reviewed soldiers from Canada on their arrival in England.

FORMER CAPITAL OF SERBIA FALLS

Belgrade Occupied by Austrian Army After Siege

DEFENDERS GET AWAY SAFELY

City Believed to Be Mass of Ruins After Terrific Bombardment Through Which It Has Passed—Bulgaria May See Opportunity Now to Maul Serbia For Humiliation Suffered in Recent Balkan War.

London, Dec. 3.—Belgrade has fallen. Austrian troops marched into the city on Wednesday after a siege that began on July 29, four days after King Peter and his court fled to Nish and established there the temporary capital of Serbia.

The occupation of the city was announced in Vienna. The news was given in a telegram to Emperor Francis Joseph from General Frank, commander of the Fifth army corps. The message said:

"On the occasion of the sixty-sixth anniversary of your reign permit me to lay at your feet the information that Belgrade was occupied by the Fifth army corps."

The city of Belgrade, which was the capital of Serbia until the seat of government was removed shortly after the outbreak of the war, has been under attack by the Austrians much of the time for the last four months.

Early in August Austrian troops reached the city, but were unable to hold it. The advance of a new Austrian army through northern Serbia during the last fortnight made the position of the Serbian troops in Belgrade a hazardous one.

During the four months the siege which was lifted only on two occasions when the Serbians were in temporary possession of Semlin, the Hungarian city across the river Save, Belgrade has been bombarded almost continuously and now is reported by persons who have been there to be nothing more than a mass of ruins.

Warning that the fall of the Serbian capital was imminent was given in telegrams received from Sofia, Bulgaria, which said the Serbian army had been obliged to withdraw from Belgrade and that telegraphic communication with Nish had been interrupted.

It is believed that the Serbian forces got out intact and that they will shortly join the army which has been fighting about fifty miles to the south.

There is no disguising the fact that the situation of the Serbians is extremely dangerous and hopes are entertained in high circles here and in France that Russia will soon be able to send an army to aid King Peter and to save his country from complete subjection at the hands of the Austrians.

Serbia has already appealed to Russia and has pointed out that she may not be able much longer to oppose seriously the superior Austrian armies, which have lately been strengthened by the arrival of about 30,000 Bavarian troops and a number of German officers.

With the diminution of Serbia's strength the situation in the Balkans becomes more perilous, for it has long been recognized that Bulgaria would not need much provocation to attack Serbia and get revenge for the humiliation she suffered after the second Balkan war. Recognizing this fact, the Russian government has sent Prince Troubetzkoy as an envoy to try and arrange an entente between the Bulgars and the Serbs. He is now on his way and Russians are optimistic as to the success of his mission.

ADMIRAL NEEDL RELEASED

United States Induces Germany to Liberate War Prisoner.

Washington, Dec. 3.—As a result of the personal recommendation of President Wilson conveyed through Ambassador Gerard at Berlin the German government has released Admiral Needl of the British navy, who has been held as an alien enemy in the German detention camps.

It was reported that the admiral was an old man in very bad health and quite feeble; that he had gone to Germany for treatment for his ailment and was unquestionably in no position to render any military service to his country. As a result representations were made through Ambassador Gerard and orders were given for Admiral Needl's release.

Yeggmen Blow Safe; Get Little Loot.

Massillon, O., Dec. 3.—Yeggmen blew the safe in the office of the South Halter Sand and Stone company and escaped with little money. The safe was wrecked. The police think amateurs did the work.

Mahan Harvard Captain.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 3.—Edward Mahan, Harvard's wonderful halfback, will lead the crimson eleven in 1915. He was elected captain at a meeting of all the players.

Glick to Lead Princeton.

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 3.—Frank Glick of Pittsburgh yesterday was unanimously elected to captain Princeton university's football team next season.

HOW LONG WILL THE WAR LAST?

Protracted Struggle Predicted by Noted Persons.

MANY EXPRESS OPINIONS.

View of International Banker That Struggle Will Be Over in Six Months—Not Shared by Soldiers, Statesmen and Other Bankers Generally—Lord War, Says Lord Kitchener.

The question "How long will the war last?" propounded to eminent soldier statesmen and bankers in London, Paris, Washington and New York, brought the following replies:

By Lord Kitchener: "It will be a long war."

By the czar of Russia through the London Daily Telegraph correspondent at Petrograd:

"There can be no peace negotiations before the enemy is completely crushed."

By Lord Northcliffe, publisher of the London Daily Mail and other leading publications:

"Expert opinion considers that the war will be over by next August, but I think it will drag on much longer. Modern warfare is siege warfare. And sieges in trenches apparently last much longer than sieges in fortresses, so that the driving back of the Germans into the trenches they have prepared on their own side of the Rhine must inevitably last an almost indefinite period."

By Lieutenant Colonel Rousset, prominent French military critic:

"It is utterly impossible to predict the limit of the war. Both sides are fighting a battle of trenches similar to that at Sebastopol, which it took two years to capture."

Germany Must Accept Terms.

By T. P. O'Connor, member of parliament and editor:

"My impression is that the war will last a good while yet. The only terms which the allies can accept will be terms which Germany is likely to refuse unless she is thoroughly beaten and that will take some time."

By Josephus Daniels, secretary of the United States navy:

"I would not dare even to guess at it. No man in this country can know enough about the forces, their position and their capacity in Europe to make a prediction."

The consensus of opinion of military men both in the navy and in the army who have made a study of the war is that it will last through next year. Some high authorities among the twenty-five to whom the question was put say that it may go on for two years. One of the highest authorities in the navy department said:

"The answer to the question is made by Great Britain herself, who is calling for another 1,000,000 men for service. That means that Great Britain and the other allies know that if even they push Germany into her own territory Germany will then only have begun the long struggle against those who mean to conquer her. Just now there is scarcely any use to talk about the end of the war, when Germany is fighting beyond her own territories, with a navy yet untouched and a people at home ready to supply the sinews of war."

An international banker in New York said:

"The war will be over within six months."

Long, Bitter Contest.

Frank A. Vanderlip, head of the National City Bank of New York, which has just loaned \$10,000,000 to France, said:

"The stubborn resistance and the relatively small gains that have been made on either side since the retreat from before Paris indicate a long, hard fought contest. Indeed, it seems to come down to a question of resources in men and supplies."

By E. H. Gary, head of the United States Steel corporation:

"My guess at the beginning of the war was a continuance for eighteen months. I have seen no reason to change my opinion."

By George Sutherland, United States senator from Utah:

"I do not think the war will be ended in less than a year. If the allies succeed in throwing the Germans back within their own borders the Germans will be stronger there than on the offensive."

LASSOS BEAR IN YARD.

Remarkable Exploit of Michigan Citizen Who Rose With the Lark.

Henry Wilson of Iron Mountain, Mich., rising with the lark, was enabled literally to snare a big black bruin in his front yard. Wilson did not expect a bear hunt when he arose and was astounded when he stepped out of his front door to find bruin perched in a tree a few feet away. A menacing growl caused him to beat a retreat for purposes of reflection.

He returned with a noosed clothesline, which he threw at the animal in regular wild west fashion. After several attempts the noose settled over the bear's neck, and it was but a short time before Wilson had the animal neatly trussed up and later presented it to the city for the beginning of a zoo.