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16th Irish Division Has a Great Record

Official Statement Says They Have Acquired Themselves Beyond Praise—Men Have Received Over 300 Military Honors—Irish Soldiers Have Been Given Great Praise by French Folk For the Devotion to Duty and For their Good Behaviour

LONDON, Nov. 2.—A letter, circulated by authority of the War Office, constitutes an interesting review of the work of the Sixteenth (Irish) Division. The letter, which was written by Major W. Redmond of the division, addressed to the editors of the London newspapers, is quoted in part as follows:—

"The 16th. Division, established two years ago in response to the appeal of the Irish Nationalist leaders, has well justified its existence and has a record of service of which Irishmen are proud. Composed of battalions of all the well known Irish regiments, the Division left for France in December, 1915, under command of Major-Gen. Hickie.

"The Division was employed in holding portions of the line and in completing training till March 25. On the 26th. of March, the division took over as a whole the Loos and Hulluch sectors and held them without a break or a rest of any kind. The division was opposed by Bavarian divisions—good fighting men who had never been severely mauled in any previous fight-

ing and whose morale was high. "Our trenches were battle-built and battle-sited, the result of the British advance in September, 1915.

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"The German trenches were those of their second line which had held up that advance at the end of the battle. They had been most carefully and tactically sited and prepared with great labour. The wire was very thick and strong. Every disadvantage of ground and position lay with us. In spite of this and of several strong hostile attacks the division never lost a trench.

"Twice only during these six months did the Bavarians gain an entry into our trenches. On both occasions they were driven out with losses.

Gas Attack and Bombardment.

"The division withstood on 27th. and 29th. of April two very severe attacks in which the enemy used poison gas in its most concentrated form. On the latter of these two occasions the division suffered heavy casualties, but Providence was on our side for, the wind suddenly changing, the gas blew back over the German trenches where the Bavarians had already massed for attack. Taken by surprise they left their front line and ran back across the open under the heavy and well directed fire of our artillery.

"In one battalion of the Bavarian

infantry regiment, the losses from their own gas and from our fire on that day were stated by a deserter captured to be over 800, and the diary of a prisoner of another battalion captured on the Somme in September states that his regiment had about 500 gassed cases, a large number of whom died.

"The division was subjected to several severe bombardments during the months of May and June. It was of common occurrence for the enemy to send over 2,000 to 5,000 5-point shells a day. The division carried out many raids, the greater number of which were successful. A good number of Germans killed, some prisoners taken and considerable damage done to the hostile lines. The main result of these raids was to increase the moral superiority of our men. From December in the Loos Sector, the division had considerable casualties in officers and men, the result of constant trench warfare.

"Orders were received for the division to proceed to the Somme. They were relieved that night and marched back for two days in pouring rain to the railway stations in the rear. Arrived at their destination, they marched up in the rain to the camps in the rear of the battle area. On Sept. 1st one brigade moved forward to relieve worn-out troops of another division and the brigade took part in the assault on Guillemont.

"Two battalions of a brigade, lent for a similar purpose to the division on the corps' right, were used in the attack on the Combes trenches and in the advance through Leuz Wood. On the afternoon of Sept. 9th. the assault against Ginchy and the hostile trenches each of Guillemont took place. The losses sustained between the 1st. and 10th. of September were in proportion to the extent and gallantry of the work done.

"During the 11 days which the division was engaged on the Somme they shared largely in the capture of Guillemont and took Ginchy—two strongholds which had defied the efforts of our troops for some considerable time—and they repelled several counter-attacks of more or less severity. The losses inflicted on the enemy in prisoners, killed and wounded, were considerable—600 prisoners being taken at Guillemont alone.

Fighting Qualities of Irishmen
"The spirit, courage and determination of the men and displayed by all ranks during the operations was beyond all praise.

"On the night of Sept. 7, after the capture and consolidation of Ginchy, the relief of the division commenced. It was complete on the 11th. inst., and the division went into a back area. On the 20th. orders were received for it to take over a new line. This relief was completed on the night of Sept. 23-24.

"A new chapter of the division's history, already remarkable, has commenced. I am informed by the divisional commander that on every occasion when the division left a district the French civil authorities headed by Mayor and cure have called upon him to express their admiration and appreciation of the conduct of the troops and of their deep religious feeling which was constantly evidenced.

300 Military Honors

"The behaviour of the division has been exemplary, and both officers and men have shown on all occasions the utmost gallantry and devotion to duty. The number of military honours won by the division is over 300. This included two Russian honour, Lance Corporal T. McMahon, Royal Munster Fusiliers, was awarded the Cross of St. George, second class, equivalent to our Victoria Cross, and Lance Sergeant I. Courtenay, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, received the Cross of St. George fourth class.

"There were two proved cases of desertion in the division. In both cases the men were subsequently found taking their full share of fighting at Ginchy.

"On one occasion, the Division found itself side by side holding the line with the Ulster Division, and when the men met from time to time the best of good feeling and comradeship was shown as between brother Irishmen.

"Such in brief is the record of the first two years of the existence of the 16th. (Irish) Division, composed as it is, like other divisions, of men, the overwhelming majority of whom had absolutely no experience of soldiering.

"Carmen Sylva"

Like the late Queen of Roumania, who made quite a literary reputation, under the pseudonym of "Carmen Sylva," the present queen, Queen Maria, is a writer. She was born an English princess, daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh, and she writes in her native tongue. Her third book, "Healers of Light," is now in the hands of her London publishers and will soon be given the public. She has previously produced two novels, "A Dreamer of Dreams" and "The Lily of Life."

Why Conscription Was Defeated In Australia

NEW YORK, Nov. 5.—The heavy vote against conscription recently cast in Australia, says T. E. Quinn, trade commissioner for the government of New South Wales, cannot be taken as conclusive and may be reversed by the votes of Australian soldiers on foreign battlefields, which are now being taken by a government commission.

"The vote," said Mr. Quinn, "was mainly due to three causes; First, to the ingrained opposition in the most advanced democracy in the world to anything resembling coercion; second to a struggle within the Labor party for control of the movement, and third, to the popular feeling in Australia that the war is nearly fought to victory and that consequently conscription in Australia is unnecessary."

Want Peace for the Whole World

LONDON, Nov. 3.—The Berlin Vorwaerts, commenting on the interview with Field Marshal von Hindenburg yesterday in which he dealt with many phases of the war, said:

"He advises France not to act as further opposed to peace. This advice will have a better chance if we should ourselves be reasonable, too. If we are going to drag this war on indefinitely then the whole of Europe will bleed to death and America and the colored race would be our heirs. But we want Europe to live, not Germany only but all the nations. We want France to live. We see her now bleeding. We want peace with England and Russia, peace for the whole blood-stained world."

Railway from Odessa to Bordeaux

BORDEAUX, France, Nov. 5.—With the object of promoting the economic relations between the Entente allies after the war, the city council of Bordeaux has announced itself in favor of plans now being worked out for a direct railroad between Bordeaux and Odessa, Russia. The line would pass through Lyons, France, Turin and Milan, Italy, Trieste and Belgrad. It is proposed to form a committee of delegates from the principal French cities interested in the project to push the plan.

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Firmer Policy Towards China Now Probable

TOKIO, Nov. 3.—Whether Count Terauchi, Japan's new prime minister, was chosen deliberately to carry out a firmer policy toward China, and will be able to do so, or whether the fact that he was selected without any popular political support will result in a stormy career and early ending of the new cabinet, are the two questions uppermost in the minds of thinking Japanese and foreign students of Far Eastern affairs. Foreigners, naturally, are centering their attention on the first question. Progressive Japanese are more concerned with the latter since the choice of Terauchi has been termed in some provincial papers as 'a bold stroke' against a progressive constitutional government in the Nipponese empire.

Premier "Railroaded."

The new Terauchi ministry has met almost united opposition from the press of the country, chiefly due to the manner in which the noted cabinet head was named. The method of his choice has aptly been likened to "railroading" of a candidate in the United States.

Marquis Okuma, with the privilege given every retiring prime minister, recommended Viscount Kato, ex-foreign minister, as his successor. It was argued Kato is a political leader possessing a strongly supporting majority in the Diet, which Terauchi is only a warrior, who had formed no political alliances and was in fact a man without a party.

Despite urgent pleas made in Kato's favor, the emperor called in the four genro (elder statesmen), who are unconstitutional relics of old Japan, and surprised the empire by naming Terauchi. Although clamor rose in which there were declarations that Japanese progressivism had been dealt a hard blow, it has taken no more tangible shape than newspaper denunciation.

"As loyal Japanese subjects," said the Manchuria Daily News, a semi-official organ, "we can find in ourselves nothing but absolute and blind obedience to the imperial order. Still we are at liberty to repeat that the unanimous recommendation of Count Terauchi by the elder statesmen is to us a surprise, the boldness of which stroke is enough to stagger the stoutest heart."

Despite this feeling against Terauchi there is a frank commendatory talk regarding the new premier's probable attitude of sternness and firmness toward China. Everywhere there is heard expression that the Chinese question should be settled immediately and for all time. Okuma frequently aroused strong opposition by what his opponents called the lax Chinese policy on theory held is that having settled the Chinese question with Terauchi as the guarding spirit, constitutional government will return.



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