

# BATTLE OF NEUVE CHAPPELLE SHOWED BRITISH POINTS WHERE ENEMY'S LINE IS WEAKEST

## British Losses at Neuve Chapelle Light in Proportion to Ground Won

Grit and Gasoline the Main Factors in Greatest Success of War in Western Theatre—Last Month's Battle Proved German Line Can be Broken Whenever Leaders See Fit to Make Final Drive.

General Headquarters of the British Army in France, Tuesday, April 13, via London, April 14.—In the trenches along the British front sprawling from Ypres to La Bassée officers and men alike are still talking of the battle last month at Neuve Chapelle. The officers characterize this British victory as likely to be recorded as the greatest local success of the war, and the private hails it as evidence that the German line can be broken whenever their leaders decide this must be done, and that the ground gained will outweigh the inevitable losses sustained.

The misgivings in England with regard to the British losses at Neuve Chapelle are hardly justified in view of the advances gained, in the opinion of staff officers at the front. One officer, explaining today the strategic importance of this dent in the German line, said the Germans in six weeks more, had they continued to hold Neuve Chapelle, thus flanking the British on the north and the south, would have inflicted losses equal to those sustained by the attackers on that memorable March morning. Thus the British would in a short time have lost just as many men, the speaker declared, without the physical and moral advantage scored by the spur forward.

### Spring a Welcome Arrival.

The mild weather of Spring prevails today along the battle line, and the British private, the men from Canada and the fighter from India, all feel very much like a football team, confident of its ability to score against the other side when the ground is a little drier. Cheerful, generally in excellent health although a little "overtaken on jam," as one of the men put it, the British private has stuck to his trenches through the long winter and now is coming to his own.

Officers of the general staff freely express the opinion that the individual soldiers and the regimental officers are the real heroes of this winter's

campaign. Weather conditions and the nature of the ground made a stubborn sticking to the trenches the only thing that could be done. The conditions generally were such that the general staff could be of little service.

Thus it might be said that "grit and gasoline" have been the dominant factors along the front; grit in the trenches and gasoline wherever the lumbering lorry with food supplies made its cumbersome way. Up in the air also gasoline has played an increasingly important part, for it is the essential fuel of the air craft.

### British Supremacy in The Air Established.

Ascendancy in the air, which the British claimed some time ago, now seems to be fairly well established. German machines over the British lines are becoming fewer and fewer. Whenever a German craft does appear it is invariably pursued by British aeroplanes, while the Germans usually seek to drive off a British flyer only by means of anti-aircraft guns. The correspondent of the Associated Press saw a good illustration of this condition. A British monoplane, flying high over the German positions, proceeded serenely homeward, pursued by no machine from the German lines, although shells from anti-aircraft guns left white puffs of smoke trailing in the wake of the flier. The machine was so high that these went wide of the mark, as could be seen by the smoke which seemed to hold intact for a moment against blue sky and then to disappear as suddenly as it came.

The Germans in some instances are now using American-made shells. Several fragments of shells have been picked up within the British lines marked "R. Stock & Company, U. S. A."

Whether these are recent acquisitions or old shells sent to Germany from America long ago cannot be determined in the lines.

## SOLDIERS AND SAILORS ARE APPRECIATIVE

Lady Jellicoe and Col. Shillington Speak of Good Done as Result of N. B. Aid—Hospital Work in France.

The following letters have been received by Mrs. E. Atherton Smith, regent of Royal Standard Chapter, I. O. D. E.:

"29 Sussex Square, Hyde Park, W. 'Dear Mrs. Smith—Very many thanks for your most kind letter of March 12. We do all, indeed, appreciate very kindly what the women of Canada have done for our sailors, and I can assure you that they are most deeply grateful for all the sympathy and labor expended on them. It is quite wonderful what your Royal Standard Chapter have already done for us in sending so generous an amount, but as you are good enough to suggest a further possible gift of money I would suggest that it take the form of, perhaps, founding a permanent fund in memory of our sailors and soldiers."

Lady Jellicoe and I have a scheme for providing centres for the training of young widows and the older children for domestic service and have started clubs for the relatives of the soldiers and sailors. I enclose one of our forms, and if you and your Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire should approve of this scheme and are really good enough to offer your further support, we shall most gratefully accept it. Meanwhile I would ask you to convey to the members of your Chapter of St. John my very heartfelt thanks for the generous manner in which they have responded to our appeal, and to assure them how deeply grateful the men of our fleet are for all their kindness."

"Believe me, 'Yours very truly, 'GWENDOLINE JELICOE."

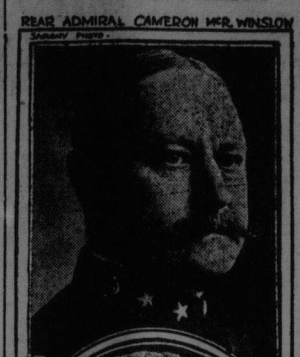
"Hotel de Golf, Le Touquet, Mar. 26. 'Dear Mrs. Smith—Your letter of March 12 received today, also letter from manager of Bank of N. B. A. with cheque for £300 enclosed. £120, according to your letter, from the Royal Standard Chapter, St. John, N. B.; £40 from the Lord Sackville Chapter, I. O. D. E., Sackville, N. B., and £90 from the Women's General Patriotic League of Moncton, and suburbs. I beg to extend the thanks of myself and all the officers and men of my unit to the ladies of your Chapter, and other ladies in New Brunswick for the splendid work done, which will be of great help to us in taking care of sick and wounded Canadian soldiers."

"As you possibly know our hospital left Salisbury Plain on November 6, this being the first Canadian unit to reach France. We found the Gold Hotel at Le Touquet, and got the authorities to take it over and give it to us for hospital purposes, and we opened our hospital on November 23. We were able to put 320 beds in the hotel building, and since that time we have erected forty tents in which we have 240 beds, making a total of 560 beds. At present we have a great many Canadian officers and men in the hospital, one or more from nearly all the Canadian battalions now at the front, and I am pleased to say that they are making good recovery."

"As far as we know we have not had any of the members of the N. B. contingent yet. I suppose that is due to the fact that the 12th Battalion, which came largely from New Brunswick, is still at Salisbury Plain and will likely come on with the second Canadian division. The wards in our hospital, called after the provinces in our Dominion, are now all very comfortably filled up, and your money will enable us to complete the fitting outfit of the New Brunswick ward and to supply a great many needs of the brave defenders of our nation from your province who are sick or wounded. We have two splendid operating theatres, well equipped X-ray department, eye, ear, nose and throat department; a splendid pathological and bacteriological laboratory, and a dispensary almost as good as any Canadian drug store."

"It is just possible that before this terrible war is over we may have to expand still further; if so, we will do it by erecting more tents. We have our tents erected five in a row, and a row holds thirty patients. We will be very pleased to comply with your request and will associate the name 'Royal Standard Chapter, I. O. D. E., St. John, and Province of New Brunswick' with the furnishing of the New Brunswick ward; also with one or two tent wards which still need some equipment to have them as we would

U. S. ADMIRAL WHO RESIGNED AND HIS PROBABLE SUCCESSOR.



REAR ADMIRAL CAMERON McRAE, who resigned, and his probable successor, Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske.

Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, it was learned, has tendered his resignation as aid for naval operations to Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy. It is well understood that his resignation is intended as a protest and that it marks the culmination of the long fight which Rear Admiral Fiske has waged against the Daniels policy. Rear Admiral Cameron McRae Winslow, it is understood, probably will be selected to succeed Rear Admiral Fiske.

Like them when our Canadian boys come to us. Of course we are so situated that we take a great many British as well as Canadian wounded, the British hospitals doing the same with our Canadian troops. There are about twenty hospitals in the Boulogne district. Our patients are brought to us on hospital trains from the front which is only two hours' ride in an auto to any part of the British firing lines.

"Nursing Sister Hare, of St. John, is in charge of one of our largest wards, and is a great help to us in many ways; but her aid in this particular instance, in having you send us the money we have just received is something we will not forget. The greatest need in our hospital, at present, is linen for the beds, and tray cloths and napkins for the patients. We are getting some of each for the N. B. ward with a little of the money you sent, and I expect Sister Hare to visit Boulogne to buy them."

"The War Office has been very good and very generous in the supply of food to all the hospitals. I think too much cannot be said in the way of praise for the generous supply of both food, and luxuries for the sick and wounded. I would be very pleased to let you know at an early date, of our further needs, and assure you, Mrs. Smith, that the work of you and your Chapter will never be forgotten by myself, or the staff of my hospital, and that we will never lose an opportunity to impress on our Canadian patients what the ladies of New Brunswick and the Royal Standard Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire have done to help them."

"I am, yours faithfully, 'T. SHELLINGTON, 'Lieut.-Col. No. 2 Canadian Stationary Hospital."

The sum of \$100 sent by the Red Cross Society of Newcastle had not reached Colonel Shillington at the time of writing the above letter.

German Atrocities. "German Atrocities from German Evidence," by Joseph Bedier, professor at the College de France, and "Facts about the War" published by the Paris Chamber of Commerce, were among the pamphlets received at the Board of Trade office yesterday.

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## THE GERMANS CHECKED IN BELGIAN CONGO

Explorer tells of desperate battles fought near the equator—Kaiser's forces defeated.

New York, April 12.—Details of fighting between Belgians, Frenchmen and Germans under the equator are related by Mr. James Chapin, explorer, who has just returned from the Congo. According to Mr. Chapin, the fighting in the Congo has been characterized by the same intensity that has marked the battles of the world war in other parts of the globe.

Mr. Chapin who was at Stanleyville, in the Belgian Congo, when the war began, said that almost simultaneously with the news, which was received by wireless, word was brought that a German column had seized the Island of Kwiji, in Lake Kivu, had captured and put to death the garrison, consisting of a handful of native troops under a white chief de poste and had landed on the west bank of the lake. The lake marks the dividing line between German East Africa and the Belgian Congo, the west bank and the island belonging to the latter.

Runners brought the news to Uvira, on Lake Tanganyika, whence it was sent by wire to Kasongo, then to Kinshasa and Kongo, where it was flashed by wireless up and down the length of the Congo. Preparations were made at once to resist the German invasion. The railroad line from Stanleyville to Pontherville, and from Kindu to Kongo, both links in the proposed Cape to Cairo Railroad were guarded, and the river steamboats between Pontherville and the Lukulu were armed with machine guns, while detachments of troops for mail to river posts from Stanleyville to Kongo were ordered to the Kivu district.

Belgians Checked the Germans. The authorities, according to Mr. Chapin, kept secret the numbers and dispositions of the relief forces. It is probable that not more than 2,000 men in all were gathered there at that time. The Congo troops consist of 75,000 negro infantry, officered by Belgians. The infantry have machine gun detachments. These troops are scattered about the entire territory in garrisons and trading posts.

Mount Hibu, on Lake Kivu, was fortified by the Belgians and held against the determined German advance until the arrival of the first reinforcements. Several sharp encounters between the invaders and the Belgian troops ensued, but, although the German advance was checked, the Kaiser's forces were still in Belgian territory.

In the meantime the military authorities of the Belgian and French Congo, after deliberation, set about making a counter demonstration against the Cameroon, which was being blockaded by the French gunboat Surprise and some British cruisers. In November a Belgian expedition mobilized at Coquilhatville was embarked aboard river steamboats and sent into French equatorial Africa, up the Sangha river, where it was joined by French native troops, and the united forces made their way up the Sangha to German territory, attacking Ngoko, an important German port. The steamboats were armed with machine guns and equipped with searchlights. This expedition, according to Mr. Chapin, had not been very successful up to the time of his leaving Boma, early in January.

Mr. Herbert Lang, who was Mr. Chapin's partner in the American Museum of Natural History's Congo expedition, and who still is at Stanleyville, had turned over his medical equipment to the Belgians, Mr. Chapin said, and was aiding in the base hospital installed at Stanleyville,

where the wounded from the eastern fighting were taken.

A German invasion of the Kivu and Haut Hur district, with the object of cutting the line of the proposed Cape to Cairo line, was speculated upon in the Herald on August 4, after the declaration of war, when it was announced by Germans in this city that reservists would probably be taken to Africa by the German steamships instead of to Germany direct.

That the Belgians at last had succeeded in bringing to the Kivu a force sufficient to dislodge the Germans and drive them back into their own territory was indicated a few days ago in a cable despatch from Havre, which announced that the Germans before Mount Hebu had been dislodged and were retreating.

Any attempt of the Germans to occupy Belgian Congo territory would come to naught, is the opinion of Mr. Chapin, who has been in the great forest between Stanleyville and Nangara, in the Fete, through which the last link of the railroad will pass. He said it would be impossible for any large body of troops to traverse the jungles. The natives would not act as bearers for them and they speedily would find themselves in difficulties if they marched toward Stanleyville. The presence of large British forces in Rhodesia would prevent an invasion by way of Lake Tanganyika.

An occupation of Stanleyville by the German forces would, of course, cut off communication between the far Eastern Congo and the lower reaches of the river. But Stanleyville is more than three hundred miles from Lake Kivu.

"The Congo is well supplied with food," said Mr. Chapin. "The black troops seem to be well drilled and the Belgian officers are experienced men. The feeling in the Congo is that the territory could hold out indefinitely, even if Germany were successful throughout the rest of the world."

The German forces in German East Africa before the start of the war were estimated at 3,000 black troops only.

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**NOBIE ON WATCH OFF VIRGINIA CAPES WHEN EITEL MADE DASH?**

**Did Not Fire as German Raider Had Non-Combatants Aboard and Many Lives Would Have Been Sacrificed.**

Halifax, April 1.—The report that H.M.C.S. Nobie was off the Virginia Capes when the Prinz Eitel Friedrich made her dash for Newport News, and that she did nothing to stop her, is generally accepted as true in Halifax, the home port of the cruiser.

It is pointed out by authorities here that the Eitel Friedrich had non-combatants on board, and that the lives of the great majority of these would have been sacrificed if the Canadian cruiser had opened fire.

With the Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm interned in Newport News, however, British shipping is safe and besides the possibility exists, it is argued, that Germany's interned shipping may be claimed by Britain at the end of the war as one of the conditions of peace.

**FORTRESS AT ISTEIN ON RHINE IS BEING REBUILT BY GERMANS**

Basel, Switzerland, April 14.—The German military authorities, according to advices reaching this city, are reconstructing the formidable fortress at Istein, five miles from where on the Rhine.

The barracks inside the fortress have been completely pulled down and extensive underground barracks to take their place have been dug and started out of the earth. Furthermore, the river Rhine is being dammed so that when certain sluice gates are closed wide stretches of the surrounding country can be flooded.

Observers in Basel are expressing the opinion that these preparations are in anticipation of a French offensive being successful.

**NORWEGIAN STEAMER'S CARGO IN PRIZE COURT**

London, April 14.—The Norwegian steamer Uto, from Savannah March 3, for Malmö, Sweden, which was detained at Kirkwall April 2, by the British naval authorities, has been transferred to Hull, where she arrived April 12. Her cargo was thrown into the prize court.

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