

Germany's Hold on Belgian Coast

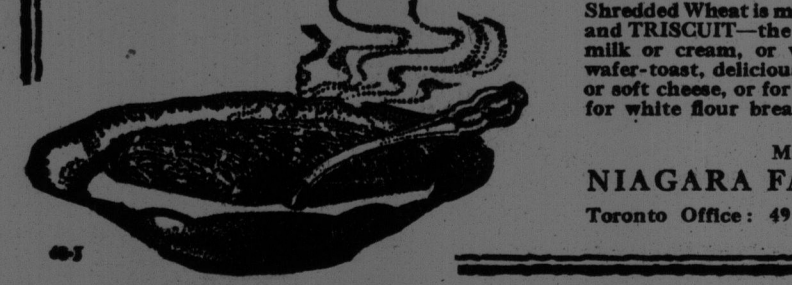
American Correspondent Visits Middelkerke, Where Sailor-Cavalry is on Duty—Shells Reach Town—Church Hit, and Germans Also Point Out Hospital That Was Not Spared

With the Germans fighting on the coast, March 31—(Staff correspondent, New York Times)—As a permanent antidote to the morning fog I unhesitatingly recommend an anti-fog ride on the fast road that skirts the shore from Ostend to Niropport, for when you speed at forty miles an hour toward "distant cannonading," it gets unaccountably close almost before you know it. Five American war correspondents came to a dead stop in the once pretty seaside town of Middelkerke—the past tense being due to the English "Long Tom"—while Captain Kliever of the great general staff went on a "Schleich Patrouille" to stalk some sort of a general with a view to obtaining permission for our further advance on Niropport.

Here, on one corner, was a three-story brick building with the roof all awry. A big square, dirty-white cotton banner still draped the front, and he who can still read in red letters that the Sisters of Mercy, somebody were here running a relief station for starving Belgian children, saw no red letters on the premises and the "children" at the windows had pale, unshaven faces. It was now a red and conspicuous station for the Kaiser's fighters who are "overcome by the heat." The sisters had evidently forgotten to take their shells from the Red Cross flag from the professedly sanitary.

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RED CROSS EXHIBITS AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION



While Europe feels the greatest struggle in history the efficiency of the Red Cross is being put to the hardest test of its wonderful existence. A larger army is now marshaled under its banner than under the flag of any one nation. It moves silently and steadily amidst the fiercest din of battle, its marvelous effectiveness the result of the businesslike systemizing it has undergone with the years.

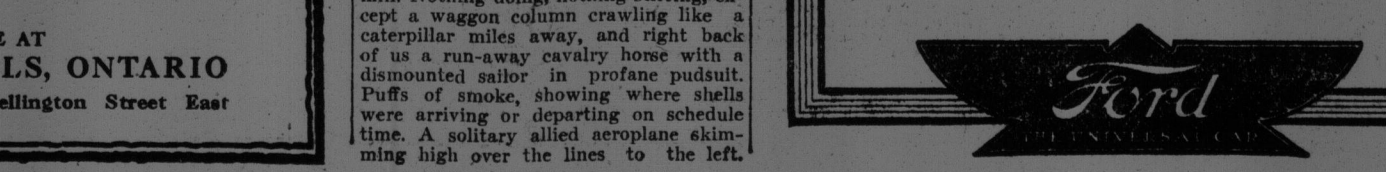
Appreciating the endeavors of the Red Cross, the great nations, despite the cataclysm in Europe, have installed wonderful exhibits at San Francisco and have incorporated these exhibits a tribute to the Red Cross. The United States and Japan in particular are devoting much attention to this feature and the results

far removed from the scene of action. The exhibits show, in a remarkably clear manner, the use of the latest surgical instruments as well as the various forms of sterilization with which each field outfit is equipped. The drawing of wounds is brought to the front by the use of lay figures, explaining clearly the care with which the wounded are handled. The most minute apparatus carried in the "kits" of the Red Cross worker are exhibited, showing their use, even down to the patent magnets, used for extracting particles of steel from the eye and thus saving the sight which otherwise might be lost.

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SAND TROUBLES FOR THE SOLDIERS

Seriously Affect Our Men in South West Africa

Veils or Goggles, He Says, Will Not Keep Out the Dust—Interesting Tales From Scene of Fighting

It is said that eye troubles have been seriously affecting the Union Forces operating in German South-West Africa, and the union government has commended a well-known eye surgeon to report on the subject. He writes to a relative in England a letter from which we are able to give these interesting extracts. He mentions, incidentally, that on the day after he left Garuba a German aeroplane dropped a bomb, destroying the operating tent and wounding nine men. He left by the transport Colonial, and returned to British territory by the hospital ship Imbue. In the letter, written from the first named vessel, he says of his projected itinerary:

"That will give me time to see what cases there are at Luderitz Bay, and get an idea of their number and character, and also I shall go up to rail-head in the middle of the coast, and in person experience the effects of wind storms and dust and sun. I am taking up every form of goggles and veil, and shall try, my impression is that they are over-estimating the difficulties, as all the cases I've seen were very simple; but the fellows sent down are mostly suffering from 'cold feet' and want to save their faces by exaggerating the conditions.

Reporting from Memory. When Note Taking Was Forbidden in House of Commons. Holcroft's feat in memorizing the whole play of "Figaro," after hearing it ten times, could probably have been easily outdone by "Memory" Woodfall, who, in the days when note-taking was forbidden in the House of Commons, acquired fame by his extraordinary power of reporting from memory the speeches he heard in that august assembly.

Half-way up the country alters to a wide, flat plain of sand and stones, with great bare-looking mountains forty or fifty miles to the eastward. Here there is a tested case of 4,000 men under General Mackenzie. It is the centre of the plain, and of all the ghastly places I have ever been in it is the worst, far worse than the painted desert of Arizona, for there isn't a particle of vegetation to be seen for miles, nothing but rocks and stones and sand and blinding sun. Unfortunately for my purpose it has been fine, with no wind and very little dust. Unfortunately because the purpose of my visit is to experiment and unless there is dust tomorrow my mission will have failed.

The doctor saw several cases up country and over 800 on his return to Luderitz—Angra Pequena as it is to be called once more," he mentions, and continues:

I have had only one experience of what the dust can be like, and that was on the way down from Thakankil. I found it was nonsense to talk about veils or goggles keeping it out. Nothing can keep it out, it gets right through one's shirt, and they tell me that in a bad storm it goes bang through the tents—that is, to say, through the canvas.

The Imbue (hospital ship on which he returned) is a beautifully equipped ship, capable of taking about 400 sick; better fitted up than the old Sima and her colleagues in 1900. Yesterday we touched at Port Nolloth to take in more sick. An open roadstead, no harbor at all, and nothing to be seen but sand and iron-roofed houses. Not an attractive spot, and, of course, only exists because in our profits if we sell 30,000 cars between August 1, 1914 and August 1, 1915.