

## AN ARMY IN THE FOREST

SCENES IN LORRAINE DURING WAR TIME.

Modern Warfare Is a Different Proposition From Former Times.

If anyone wants to see a modern army it is no use visiting the theatre of war. The only place to go is to a cinematograph show. There you will find troops marching and fighting in a manner you never see at the front. I have been motoring about Lorraine for three days, writes E. Ashmead-Bartlett in the London Daily Telegraph. I have seen the German outposts, and in the distance the great fortress of Metz. I have been to the front French lines, or rather these lines have been pointed out to me. But I have never seen more than two or three soldiers at a time. I have seen small columns of smoke rolling upwards from the snowclad forests, and once I caught a glimpse of what looked like a green Indian wigwam in the very outskirts of a wood, and that is all. Yet these same woods contain thousands and thousands of armed warriors, ever on the lookout, who are gazing across the frontier at the other woods, which conceal countless thousands of soldiers of the Kaiser.

I once walked on what looked like a firm ground strewn with branches of trees, and very nearly fell into a pit. On looking down I saw the grim muzzle of a gun. That is all I saw of the French artillery. I am now speaking of the troops actually holding the front lines facing the German positions on the other side of the frontier. In the villages behind these lines there is plenty of life and animation. Here one sees the French Reservists making themselves as comfortable as circumstances will permit, amidst the ruins of what were once the homes of a large and prosperous peasant population. Here let me say that never before have I seen such an awful state of desolation as prevails over the whole of this immense track of country over which the armies fought in August and September.

## Devastated Lorraine.

Belgium is bad enough, but French Lorraine looks exactly as if it had been devastated by a gigantic earthquake, which has shaken down all the towns and villages into a mass of shapeless, smoke-blackened ruins. The civilian population has almost entirely disappeared. They are scattered all over France, staying with friends, or in centres provided by the Government. Many of these villages were destroyed by artillery fire, or in the course of desperate hand-to-hand fights for their possession; but the majority are the deliberate work of destruction.

Apart from the absence of the civilian population and the destroyed towns and villages, the whole of this part of Lorraine presents an extraordinary spectacle, because practically every yard of it—at least of parts we visited—has been absolutely shot to pieces by the concentrated fire of the French and German guns.

There are great shell holes everywhere. The shells remain exactly where they fell in this combat of giants. The deserted land has not since been ploughed, and it is easy to follow the various phases of the battle as the tide of invasion advanced or recoiled, by the deep holes made by the shrapnel and heavy artillery.

Everywhere the ground is strewed with trenches, now half filled with ice and snow. You see some of these in regular formation, where the French and German infantry occupied an advanced position, and had time to dig themselves in. Others were hastily during some attack when the advancing infantry could make no further progress, and merely tried to hold their own on the ground thus gained. The more gruesome relics of this gigantic battle are the innumerable little mounds of earth, some surmounted by crosses of wood and the kepis of the fallen. Names scrawled in pencil on these crosses are now rapidly disappearing under the stress of wind, rain and snow. Elsewhere are huge nameless graves which are filled with the unknown heroes, where friend and foe lie side by side.

## Deadly Spots Marked.

The most terrible and mournful sights are those where you find hundreds of crosses concentrated in a very small area in front of some impregnable hill or wood. This is where, you are told sadly by the officer who is accompanying you, a great attack failed. In one low-lying valley 700 French graves lie in a space 200 yards wide and about fifty broad. This regiment attacked the Germans during a fog. They were given away by a spy, and were mowed down almost to a man. The wounded had to be left just where they fell, and most of them perished from thirst and starvation.

In another small wood we were shown the trees absolutely mowed down by the French shrapnel fire. It looked as if it had been swept by some whirlwind.

A Saxon Brigade, which had taken the trenches in front, attempted a further advance in open formation followed by close columns. They were allowed to advance some distance when suddenly forty-eight of the French 75's were turned on them. They were swept in hundreds. The men lost their heads and ran round in circles, and then broke for cover to this wood. Here they were caught in a death-trap, and over 3,000 dead bodies were interred here alone.

These are only a few of the incidents and scenes which were repeated everywhere during this awful effort of the Germans to break through the Trouee de Hirecourt and to drive the French army into the fortress of Toul.

## Trees Mowed By Shells.

Nothing shows more clearly the devastating effects of modern artillery fire than the way the trees have been swept clear of their branches by the passage of the shells. The roads of Lorraine are lined on both sides by aspens. These are now in a melancholy state. Some have all their upper branches swept away; some have escaped altogether, and hold themselves proudly in strange contrast to their battered neighbors. Most of the main roads were half destroyed by the holes made by the shells, but those have been filled in to allow of the passage of transport and motor cars.

When walking over the ground over which some particularly desperate fight has been waged, you have to keep a sharp lookout, otherwise you will very likely fall into a hole some five feet deep made by one of the great howitzers which has become filled up with drifting snow. Clad in its winter mantle with an icy wind shivering through you, and deserted by all except occasional bands of soldiers, quartered amidst the ruined houses, and by the few peasants who still cling to their cellars, the whole country presents to the eye an indescribable spectacle of misery and melancholy.

## Metz Cannot Be Taken.

Standing on the summit of the hill of St. Genevieve, I had a splendid view of the ground for miles and miles around. Unfortunately, the day was not clear, but in the distance twenty miles away, I could discern the outline of Metz. To the north, towards the Argonne from the Bois Le Petre, the great guns were thundering away, for from this position the French artillery has already commenced to bombard the outer works of Metz.

But it must not be imagined that anything in the nature of a siege has commenced or is likely to commence. Metz will fall when peace is signed. It would require too great an army and would look up too many men to undertake a regular siege at this stage, when the Germans can still put formidable armies in the field.

## RAINBOW UNIFORMS.

Experience Shows Zebra Effects Are Least Visible.

The experience of this war may lead to the trial of soldiers' uniforms striped like the zebra or banded by the colors of the rainbow, in the opinion of some military observers, who have serious doubts as to the effectiveness of khaki, blue-grey, or any of the other colors now in use. In India and South Africa, where khaki got its reputation as a uniform cloth, it fitted well into the background of the landscape, but in the different atmosphere and landscapes of Europe both the khaki and the blue-grey show up conspicuously in mass.

Nature, the color experts now say, did not stripe the zebra by way of ornament, but as a protective measure. It is the unbroken mass of color, no matter what shade, that catches the eye in the distance. Col. Maude, a well known expert, recounts an instance in India when his party, approaching a parade ground from a distance, were unable to see but one of three battalions until comparatively close up. The troops all wore scarlet jackets. But two battalions were made invisible by white pipe clay belts and cross-straps, which broke the mass of color, while the conspicuous body had dark straps, which blended in with the red. Tigers, leopards, birds, lizards, snakes and most living creatures use a mottled coloring.

While scarlet is most conspicuous at short range, it is the first of the primary colors to fade from view at a distance. As a landscape has all colors in it, striped large checks or variegated blotches of different colors are the easiest to melt into the background. This fact was recognized in the old times, when forts on the coast were painted in black and white squares.

Even now crude colors in stripes are used to conceal wagons from air men.

"Now," said the Principal, to one of the pupils at the close of the lesson in which he had touched on the horrors of war, "do you object to war, my boy?" "Yes, sir, I do," was the fervent answer. "Now tell us why." "Because," said the youth, "war makes history and I hate history."



A Ship Which Met the Hidden Death and Was Saved by Beaching.

The effect of a mine upon a steamer, which met it in the North Sea, is graphically illustrated by this picture. It was through the resourcefulness of the captain that a total loss was prevented by the quick beaching of the vessel. The hole in the bows is roughly a 12-foot square, and it is difficult to imagine how the ship reached shore. The floating mines with which the Germans filled the seas around the British Isles at the beginning of the war have done more damage to merchantmen, fishing boats, and warships than the Germans could do if they had a large fleet at sea.

## GERMAN RULE IN BELGIUM

SUICIDES AND INSANITY ARE COMMON.

The Belgians Live In An Atmosphere of Terror At All Hours.

The London Times' correspondent at Amsterdam says the Telegraaf published a remarkable article from a correspondent in Antwerp describing the situation there, and especially speaking of the epidemic of suicide and insanity which, he says, has broken out among Belgian residents. This report is significantly confirmed from another source. The Handelsblad van Antwerpen is a Germanophile paper published in Antwerp. In a recent issue it complained querulously that:

"We hear every day reports of cases of sudden death, of suicide, and of people going mad. The responsibility for a large portion of these calamities lies with those sowers of the seeds of panic who every day spread senseless rumors which cause acute suffering to other people."

It goes on to specify some of these rumors. Commenting upon the article, the newspaper L'Echo Belge, which is published in Amsterdam, remarks that perhaps the spreaders of panic only remember things which have happened at Louvain, at Verviers, and at Mons, and adds that at least it is interesting to note that the German paper is compelled to recognize the fact of the suicides and the cases of insanity. "Apart from that," it concludes, "everything is normal, as von der Goltz says."

## Feeding the People.

From various places most discouraging reports leak across the frontier. At Turnhout the severity of the German administration is reported to be extreme. At Hamme, which is in an industrial district, there is said to be much suffering among the people, the majority of whom draw their meals from four public kitchens which have been established. At Antwerp there are understood to be 30,000 people living daily on the public charity. At Malines from the beginning of February there is to be no more selling of bread by bakers, but everybody must get a ticket daily from the Town Hall which will enable him to draw an amount of bread in proportion to the size of his family. At Saint Laurens the situation is represented as very distressing and to be aggravated by the fact that systematic plundering goes on by soldiers who make compulsory requisitions and give in exchange worthless individual receipts.

Similar troubles over payment seem to be not infrequent. We hear that at Lokeren over a week ago all the farmers were instructed to bring their horses to the market, where those which were fit for ser-

vice were commandeered, with a promise that receipts would be given for them on the following day. Those who did not produce their horses were fined 100 marks, but no receipts have yet been given for the animals which were taken. In the neighborhood of Verviers an inventory has been ordered to be made of all the horses, mules, and cattle, nominally "for the purpose of introducing improvements in breeding." There is, as has been pointed out, a certain humor in Germans proposing to teach the Flemish anything about the breeding of stock.

## Requisitions—No Payment.

The demands for wine constitutes universal cause of complaint. We are told of 10,000 litres being called for at Louvain in a single day. From the rural neighborhood round Antwerp it is said that the cellars of the country houses along the river have all been plundered and their valuable furniture and objects of art carried off. The ransacking of towns for copper continues, so that it is said that the great bronze gates of the Central Station in Antwerp have been broken up and carted away, and at Heyst and other small towns in Flanders there goes on a rigid commandeering of door knobs and the like.

The higher military authorities appear to be desirous of making nominal payment for goods which are taken. As a matter of fact, however, in individual cases the formality of payment seems to be most commonly overlooked. Perhaps it does not matter much. All requisitions are now being, and will henceforward be, paid for with the new issue of so-called Belgian banknotes issued by the Germans through the Societe Generale in Antwerp. These notes have no sort of recognition from the Belgian Government, and are being turned out in unlimited quantities without any other security than the mere fiat of the German military authorities; so that, except for barter, while the German occupation continues, they are worth, otherwise than as souvenirs, precisely the value of the paper on which they are printed.

## No Story.

"Now, Willie, I shall tell you a story to punish you severely for telling an untruth. You said you didn't touch one of those six plums, and there is only one left, and I found the five stones in your pockets. Willie—"I told no story, mother. The plum I didn't touch is the one that's left!"

Her friends had asked their young hostess to play for them, and she was performing a difficult selection from Wagner. In the midst of it she suddenly stopped in confusion. "What's the matter?" asked one of the visitors. "I—I struck a false note," faltered the performer. "Well, what of it?" cried another guest. "Go ahead. Nobody but Wagner would ever know it, and he's dead."

## ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN

Only 25 per cent. of the population of South Africa are women.

All babies born in Brussels are now registered as German subjects. The Michigan Central railway now employs women as dining-car waitresses.

Over 80,000 women are employed in the steam laundries of the United States.

Violet is the color of the clothes of those who are now in mourning in Turkey.

Queen Alexandra receives an annuity of \$350,000 from the British government.

Mrs. Anna M. Walker Penfield is the largest woman personal property tax payer in Philadelphia, being credited with over \$3,500,000.

As a reward for her valor while under fire, Sister Julie Rigard, a nun, acting as a nurse in the Paris military hospital, has been decorated with the Legion of Honor by President Poincare of France.

One of the oldest schools for girls on the American continent is the Colegio de la Paz in Mexico City, which was founded by wealthy Spaniards in 1732 for the benefit of the children of the poorer classes.

There are several villages in Russia where shoeing horses is an everyday task for the women, as the whole village is engaged permanently in blacksmithing, and the women do exactly the same work as the men.

Women's dress abroad is now being influenced by the war, and the latest craze is to wear veils decorated with black silhouettes of aeroplanes, Zeppelins, exploding shells, soldiers' heads and other military emblems.

Sarah Bernhardt, the famous French actress, received \$30,000 for posing in the film movie Queen Elizabeth. It required about six weeks' work and is probably the largest sum ever paid a legitimate star for such work.

Princess Shakovsky, a well-known sportswoman, who holds a flying certificate from Johanisthal, has been permitted to join General Rusky's staff as a military airwoman officially recognized in the army service.

Friend—"I wonder, Ethel, that you allowed that Frenchman to kiss you in the conservatory?" Ethel—"I couldn't help it." Friend—"Why couldn't you?" Ethel—"Because I can't speak French."

Bridget had been a witness in a lawsuit, and had just returned home from court. "What did the lawyer say to you, Bridget?" inquired her mistress, "Shure, th'ould haythen," said Bridget, truculently, "he axed me did Oi know there was brass enough in me face to make a good-sized kettle, an Oi told him there was sauce enough in his tongue to fill it."

## NEWS ACROSS THE BORDER

WHAT IS GOING ON OVER IN THE STATES.

Latest Happenings in Big Republic Condensed for Busy Readers.

Jules Rujewskit hanged himself at the wedding of his sister at Buffalo. Buffalo foghorn is to be muffled so that only the lakes get its benefit.

Missouri seems likely to sanction a bill to close hotel bars daily at 9 p.m.

A boy bank robber at Houston, Texas, was shot fleeing with \$5,000 booty.

Penny lunches were served to 38,678 New York school children last week.

New York city civil service commissioners are to be fired for irregularities.

Chicago High school teachers are prohibited from flirting in the institutions.

For giving cigarettes to a boy J. Wetzel of Waynesboro, Pa., was fined \$100.

Ten Thousand in Wheeling, West Virginia, were thrown out of work by the floods.

In New York City last year 2,382 persons were fined for cruelty to animals.

Cleveland estimates the war has brought \$17,000,000 to its factories from Europe.

The net revenue per mile on 147 U. S. railways in December decreased \$41.

Representative Adair of Indiana wants a secretary of peace in the U. S. Cabinet.

The new series of counterfeit \$5 bills flooding the U. S. are probably of Buffalo origin.

Michael Fallon, of Boston, got 13 months for smuggling his niece from Ireland illegally.

Walter J. Keating, of Brooklyn, left \$20,000 to found a nursery to aid working mothers.

Washington State Senate has a petition to make a new State of Lincoln in the West.

Two "dashing Mormon women" "converted" Brooklynites to their faith in January.

Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale testified at Boston that five persons can live easily on \$17 a week.

West Virginia has a bill to remove those highway weeds that bring hay fever to humans.

Joseph Findura, a Cleveland grocer, shot a 16-year-old boy to death for stealing a loaf of bread.

Over 56,000 unlawful absences from school in 1914 are reported against Philadelphia pupils.

Lester Willard, a Troutdale, Ore., sheepman, was fined \$100 for sheep shearing in December.

Experts at Albany said systematic food distribution in New York would save \$200,000,000 a year.

United States authorities have bought \$655,000 worth of beet sugar seed in Germany as a precaution.

A pet chicken pecked the eye of Mrs. Helen McKeever, of Queen's, N.Y., and the eye will be blinded.

New York City has sent enough tetanus antitoxin to European battlefields to immunize 250,000 men.

A Pottsville, Pa., negro wants to wed a white woman, but cannot get anyone to perform the ceremony.

Thirteen cousins are fighting for the \$9,000,000 estate of the late William L. Gulick of Springfield, Mo.

John Young, convicted of Pittsburgh bank frauds, died in the pen a month before the date of his release.

Prominent educators will enlist 20,000,000 children in an army of help to suffering in U. S. and Europe.

A gold nugget of ten pounds, worth \$3,500, was found in Red Rock Canyon, Mojave, by Dave Bowman.

Baltimore wants to name its schools for colored children after famous negroes, and is short of titles early.

Ether was successfully used to disclose the identity of a young English actress who lost her memory in New York.

Johnstown, Pa., temperance forces published the names of the signers liquor license applications. It was effective.

Mrs. T. Volka, of South Norwalk, Conn., pleaded "self-defence," when accused of killing a neighbor's chicken.

Thomas H. Lovegrove, acquitted of murder at Louisville, Ky., is rushing back to England to enlist in gratitude.

## The Name Turnpike.

It was formerly the custom to obtain the funds to maintain principal thoroughfares by collecting a toll from those using them. Pikes or gates were set across the roads by the keeper or toll collector. To prevent people who travelled his road from passing without paying the toll he was armed with a pike, a long-handled stick with a sharp iron head. This was put across a barrier, and when the toll was paid it was turned aside to permit the carriage or wagon to pass on its way. Hence the name turnpike, which meant a road on which toll was collected.



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