

meant inevitably an entire alteration in the face of the northern war. It would have involved the entire retirement of the Belgian army from its northern position. Once the Yser Canal to the north of Ypres was turned the whole of the Belgian position up to Nieuport and the sea would inevitably have gone. Let the Germans push beyond Ypres and nothing could have prevented them pressing on first to Dunkirk and then beyond. Ypres was, and is, essentially the key to Calais, and so we would have found the German armies turning the entire flank of the allied position. Had the Canadians not held Ypres and our 1st Division not saved the day at Ypres in April, 1915, there would have been no battle of the Somme to-day, for the British armies would now be fighting their way for a foothold on northern French soil. And "fat Bertha"—Germany's darling gun