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## LECHATEAU FIGHT DESPERATE TIME

Enemy Made Strenuous Effort to Surround the British but Were Completely Foiled

**S**APPER EVAN DAVIES, of B signal Co. Royal Engineers, who, prior to the war, was employed at the General Post Office, Cardiff, writing to his brother describes the battle of Le Cateau. He says:

"The fight was the most desperate that the Second Army had during the campaign. The cannonading was terrific. About nine a.m. the general, Sir H. Smith-Dorrien, ordered all men on his staff—telegraphists and bodyguard—to take up rifles and march to the battlefield. It was here that I had my worst experience so far.

### Watching for Enemy.

From nine a.m. to three p.m. we were hidden in a cornfield ready to prevent any body of Germans from passing this particular spot. We were apparently right in the middle of the battlefield. A battery of our guns was just behind us, and some of the German shells directed to silence these guns were burst all round us, rather an uncomfortable feeling; but, strange to say, I did not feel so nervous as I thought I would.

The Germans were in a semi-circle almost round us, and it was much as we could do with our comparatively small force to stop them completely surrounding us. The air was thick with smoke, and the whizzing and bursting of shells and the roar of the cannon was deafening. The sound of rifles was something like the noise of motor-bicycles.

### Ordered to Retire.

At four p.m. we were ordered to retire, and our party, numbering fifty or so, were making our way back to headquarters. We had not gone fifty yards before a perfect hail of bullets rained on us. We were at the time in front of a wood where the enemy was hidden. We immediately lay down flat amongst some cabbage and returned the compliment. They turned machine-guns on us, and they also had a small cannon.

A shell burst right in front of me and threw up the earth all over my face, and we had a hot forty minutes of it. After finishing our ammunition we made a bolt for a ravine 300 yards away. Two alongside of me were shot stone dead; a pal of mine had a bullet which went right through the eye and came out through his throat.

Once in the ravine we were comparatively safe. We made our way in a southerly direction. It was useless to attempt to find headquarters, who had by this time moved. Three of us got separated from the rest of the crowd, and we were on the point of making for the village where our headquarters had been, but had to make a hasty retreat. The Germans had got in there first.

### Lost For Three Days.

For three days we were lost, but after a forty-mile tramp we got to Ham, near St. Quentin, where we stayed in a private house for the night. We woke up rather late, and just managed to get clear of the place before the advance guard of the Germans arrived. We did fifteen miles before breakfast on this morning. Already all our troops had gone on during the night and early morning.

We eventually found our own company in Noyon, about sixty miles from the scene of the battle. This ended a very exciting three days. After Noyon we made in the direction of Paris, travelling mostly by night.

With the exception of rearward actions, we got to within twenty miles of Paris without any more pitched battles. By the time we got to Meaux we were ready for another "scrap," and in conjunction with the French turned on the enemy. After some hard fighting we had them on the run, and from there up to this place we have not turned back.

### Biggest Fight of All.

We have been here a fortnight, and the biggest fight of all has been raging ever since—not so desperate as Le Cateau, but more general.

The cannonading has been incessant for a fortnight. I have been on duty with one of the Army divisions at the telegraph office since we arrived here. I think we shall be here yet for a while; both the Germans and the Allies are strongly entrenched, and it will be difficult for one side to shift the other.

The British soldiers have won much praise for the way in which they checked the German advance. The British soldier does not easily get excited.

I have seen them eating their bully beef and smoking their pipes with bullets whizzing around them. After a few weeks of this sort of thing a soldier does not put much value on human life. I sincerely hope that another month will see us on the German frontier.

## ALLIED INFANTRY MORE THAN MATCH FOR THE GERMANS

German Infantry Fairly Beaten All Along the Line, But it Will be a Long Job Pushing Back the Enemy

**A** wounded officer in the Dragon Guards writes from France to his relatives in Belfast. He says:

"I hear accounts of desperate fighting on the Aisne. The cavalry had to do two days in the trenches, the first two of the battle, but they have since been relieved by fresh infantry and have now moved back into billets behind the battle-line.

### Suffered Severely.

The German infantry have suffered very severely, and their attacks on our line have practically stopped. All their guns have been located by our aeroplanes, with the exception of the heavy guns, which cannot be seen. They are throwing enormous shells into our trenches and into the valley of the Aisne behind them, and occasionally one of these shells does dreadful damage.

Our troops are practically in the same place where I left them seventeen days ago.

### Fairly Beaten.

The German infantry have been fairly beaten all along the line. Their officers have tried again and again to get their men to drive our infantry back, and each time they have been worsted in the fierce fight.

Such fighting must be seriously affecting their morale, and once the German big guns can be located and silenced by our heavy artillery our advance is assured.

The troops are in good spirit, and reinforcements from home are steadily coming up. The two Indian divisions who are landing at Marseilles should be up in about a week.

### A Long Job.

It will, I fear, be a long job pushing the Germans back, as they have other positions ready prepared north of the Aisne, and just as strong as the one they now hold. Their artillery make wonderfully good shooting, and their observation of fire by aeroplanes and look-out men is very thorough. When they prepared their position on the Aisne, telephone wires were laid out to the front and officers left in woods and buildings and caves. These officers have been lying out, some of them within 100 yards of our trenches, and all the time directing the fire of their heavy guns, miles back, by telephone. Three or four of these observing officers have been caught.

### Aeroplanes Help.

The German aeroplane helps the guns by dropping two smoke balls when they get immediately over one of our trenches. Though their guns are so good they cannot win battles with them alone, and their infantry are not in a state to help them much. It seems that this sort of fighting would go on for some time, perhaps all through the winter, unless something happens in Eastern Prussia to change the whole aspect of the war.

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## FOUND GERMAN WIRELESS OUTFIT IN LONDON HOUSE

Was Established Two Years Ago and Ordered Dismantled by Authorities

**POLICE DISCOVERED IT RE-ESTABLISHED**

Could Intercept Messages From British, French and German Stations

**A** wireless station capable of receiving messages from all the powerful British, French, and German stations, and transmitting messages over 150 miles, has been found in the garden of a registered German in London.

At West London Police Court, Morgan Adolf Watsdorf, aged 19, a clerk, born in England, but living at this address with his grandfather, a registered German, was remanded charged with working this wireless installation without a licence.

In 1912 it came to the knowledge of the Post Office that a wireless installation had been established at that address, and Watsdorf was communicated with. He applied for a licence, but was refused. He was told he must dismantle the apparatus.

On August 5 this year it was discovered that the apparatus had been re-established. At the request of the Post Office it was dismantled on August 15, but two days later it was found that a complete wireless installation had been set up, that there was a connection with the electric main of the Hammersmith Borough Council, and that in the front room in the basement was a complete apparatus connected with the aerial in the garden.

### Still in Existence.

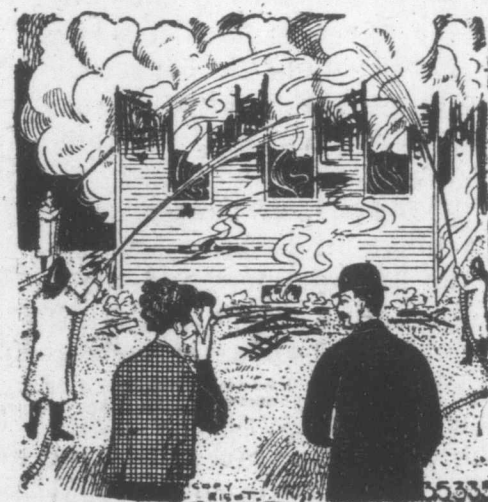
An inspector of wireless telegraphy said that on August 5 he saw that the aerial apparatus—which had previously been dismantled—was still in existence. He could not gain admittance to the house himself, so he fetched a police constable, and proceeded to take down the aerial apparatus.

The poles on which the aerial was fixed were 75ft. high. On August 15 he visited again and found that the aerial had been re-established.

On August 17 he entered the place, and in the front room in the basement found a full internal installation connected with the electric mains. He made it non-effective and left instructions that it was not to be used.

In reply to Watsdorf the inspector said the laneyard was not frayed. One of the men had to climb a tree to cut it down. On August 17 the apparatus was intact, but the aerial had been cut.

An assistant engineer from the G.P.O., in reply to the magistrate, said with this apparatus Watsdorf could receive a message from Germany, but could not send one there.



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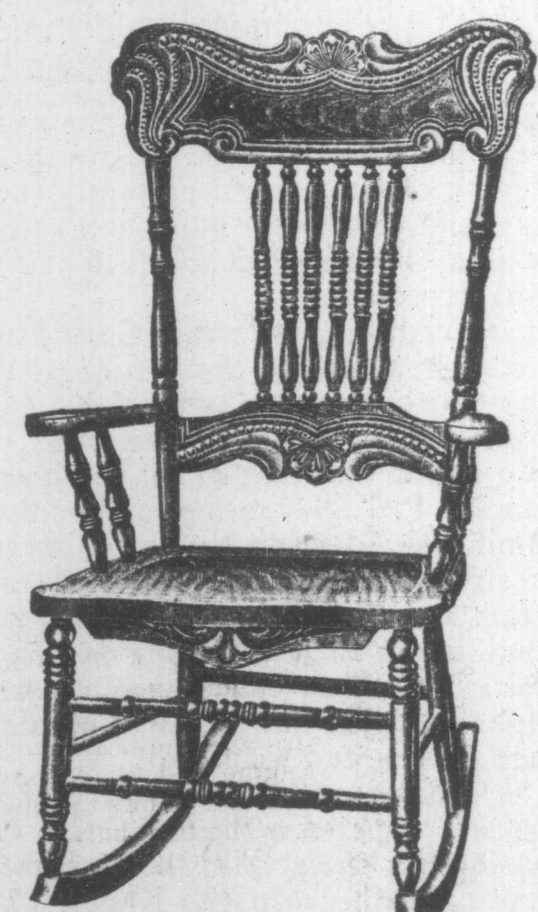
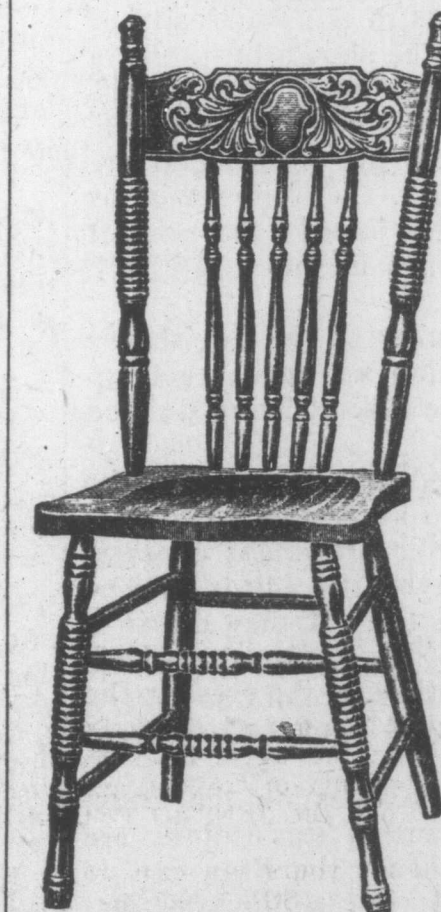
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