

HELPING YOU to KEEP POSTED

THE official story of how the Princess Pats Regiment was destroyed on the 8th of May, 1915, in the battered trenches fronting Bellewaardes Wood "Valiantly sustaining the gift and trust of a Lady," as the Canadian Eyewitness expressed it, has had no more stirring supplement than the record of the adventures of Corporal Edward Edwards, as told by him through George Eustace Pearson in the Saturday Evening Post. Corporal Edwards was "pipped" by shrapnel early in the fatal fight, but he and a few companies held on and "carried on" crowding together as the parapets crumbled until what few of them drew breath were huddled in one small traverse of the front line trench.

"The rest was chaos, a bit of pure hell," he says in the preamble to the story of his capture, imprisonment and subsequent escape after fifteen months of neighbouring with German brutality, in various prison camps of the Prussian interior.

Corporal Edwards was captured by a company of the 21st Prussian Regiment, after making a hopeless, stumbling dash to reach the woods. He learned

later that the Prussians had been ordered to "take no Canadian prisoners," and from his recital of the brutal butchery which followed the actual meeting between broken remnants of his regi-

ment and the "Pride of Prussia," it is a matter for shuddering awe that any of them survived to start the miserable journey to Giessen Camp. The blood-lust had crazed their captors and the naked Pathans who dismembered the fallen men of the Second Gordons in the march to Kandahar were no more brutal. A black-bearded giant of an officer finally interfered, and, three days later, with wound still undressed, miserable, hungry but unbroken by the many insults and inhuman treatment by the way, they were caged behind barbed wires in the laagers of Giessen.

Corporal Edwards and two fellow-Britishers made a daring attempt at escape eight months later. His record of the miserable meantime gives the lie direct to the lying propaganda of the German publicity agents. They were slowly starved and systematically ill-treated to break down their British spirit. It was on the night of January 22nd that the three British lads made their bravely impudent attempt at escape. Edwards, Simonds and Brumley, with twenty-five guards about them and camp dogs sniffing around the laager, made their stealthy approach to a point where a shadow might mask their escape beneath the wire. Brumley fell and was captured the next day. For many following nights Edwards and Simonds crept through many adventures towards the boundary of Holland, sustained by hope and two biscuits a day, which made up their only ration. A fog finally betrayed them, and whilst crossing the upper-works of a flooded bridge—four miles from the neutral country—they blundered in the mist into a party of Landstrumers, were overpowered and taken to the military prison at Oldenburg. After thirty days of military confinement in the dark cells of Oldenburg they were removed to the "strong punishment camp" in Hanover, from which, seven months later, they made their final and successful escape.

Corporal Edwards' story of that escape is an amazing record of risk and daring. They had to cover two hundred miles as the straight road goes, and their shifts to escape capture doubled the distance of their risky journey. They were detected many times; always pursued, starved, torn and worn with fatigue. One incident may serve to reflect something of the things they had to do. They were reconnoitering at the edge of a wood one evening when a burly farmer confronted them. He was armed with a shot-gun and accompanied by a powerful dog.

"I do not know whose was the offensive," says Cor-



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poral Edwards. "But I do know that the three of us came together with one accord in a wild and terrible medley of oaths in two languages and of murderous blows that beat like flails at the threshing. Simonds and I struggled for the gun which he tried so hard to turn on us, the dog meanwhile sinking its teeth deep in our unprotected legs and leaping vainly at our throats while we felt with clutching fingers for his master's, intent only that he should not shout.

"In those mad moments there sped through our brains the reel of that whole horrid film of fifteen months' torture of mind and body; the pale, blood-covered faces of our murdered comrades of the regiments, the cries of those patient Russians behind the trees, and our own slow and deadly starvation and planned mistreatment. All these, and God only knows what else, would be ours again if we should be recaptured.

"We were near to Holland. In fancy and by contrast we saw the fair English fields and the rolling beauty that is Ontario's, and we heard the good English tongue and saw the dear faces of our own folk.

"We bore the farmer no ill-will. And his dog was to the last a very faithful animal, as our clothes and limbs bore true witness. We had no ropes. And we were two very desperate men, badly put upon. We dropped his gun in the bushes and passed on."

And so, after twenty-one days and nights of incessant alarm and continuous adventure they reached to Holland. They pushed thirty miles beyond the boundary before they would risk declaring themselves, but the fears they had entertained that they might be handed back to Germany were not realized; instead, they were welcomed, warmed, fed, feted and clothed.

THE Exports Council of the United States has an instrument to hand in the Embargo Act which may be used to close the tradesman's entrance to Germany, make the blockade absolute and bring such economic pressure to bear as will give the deciding pinch and cause Germany to break under the strain within twelve months. This, says Arthur Pollen, the British Naval Expert, who is now in consultation with the authorities in Washington,

should be the first concern of the new Ally. Mr. Pollen, in the same interview as recorded in the New York Times, also puts the problem of the U-boat menace squarely before the U. S. Naval Board for

solution. The potential power to accomplish these two master strokes is, says Mr. Pollen, the greatest asset brought into the belligerents' camp by the United States.

Mr. Pollen admits that England made a colossal mistake in delaying the declaration of an embargo until tremendous vested rights had been established in trade between neutrals and England's enemy. But he reminds Washington that the American accent has been dropped entirely from the clamour of protests which did so much to embarrass the

British Foreign Office in its attempt to wield the war-power of the blockade. "If," he says, "the coming in of the United States means an absolute blockade, as it should, I am convinced that the war will be over within twelve months.

"There is nothing that the United States may not do in this respect," adds Mr. Pollen, "so far as the rights of neutrals are concerned. She is now a belligerent and can determine where every ton and bushel of her other products may or may not go." As a first step in the tightening of Germany's tether, Mr. Pollen insists that all the Scandinavian countries be rationed down to their own absolute necessities. There must be nothing left over the barest domestic needs, he declares, for shipment to the enemy, either

across the border from Denmark and Holland or through the Sound from Sweden and Norway.

It is not necessary or desirable that people shall die from want of food in Germany. The objective is to provoke reaction against the war "even in militaristic Germany," says Mr. Pollen, by making all the processes of living, in the civil population, and of fighting, in the armies, insupportable. This state of affairs will result, so Mr. Pollen assures us, when the blockade has been made effective to the point of taking away just the little balance of the absolute essentials of life that marks the difference between that which is barely endurable and that which is intolerable.

In approaching the submarine menace, Mr. Pollen charges Spain with harbouring and aiding German U-boats, and declares that "Denmark, Holland, Sweden and Norway are violating neutrality by allowing illegal use of their territorial waters by the Germans in the passage of enemy submarines to and from the North Sea. The doctrine on territorial waters," he remarks, "never contemplated that they should be used as a lane for habitual passage by belligerent ships. Leaving the Allies in council to decide the question of reprisals for such violations on neutrality and the navies of France and England to strain every resource of destroyers, nets, hydroplanes, convoys and everything they now have in the fight against the submarine, Mr. Pollen warns Washington that not all these instruments and methods combined can enable the Allies to win.

WHETHER he comes from Missouri or Michigan, the American business man "wants to know." The interrogation point is his totem pole and he plants it pat in front of any new situation. Just now he is asking "How will War

Affect my Business," and B. C. Forbes, writing in the American Magazine, by way of setting out an answer, tells of the direction business developments have taken in England and in Canada during

Modern Businesses Boosted by the War

the war.

As Mr. Forbes sees them, the signs of the times in England indicate that the people, as a whole, are earning more, spending more and saving more than ever before. Wages were never so high nor work so plentiful. The rich who are not interested in favoured manufactures are suffering through heavy taxation, but the working classes are prospering. The leading department store in London has had a record year.

Mr. Forbes quotes from the London Financial Times to show how "a leading department store in London" reached a record of prosperity in the third year of the war. "The profits for the past five years (three of peace and two of war)" says the Financial Times, "have been as follows:

Year ending Jan. 31, 1913	£104,029
Year ending Jan. 31, 1914	131,546
Year ending Jan. 31, 1915	134,791
Year ending Jan. 31, 1916	150,222
Year ending Jan. 31, 1917	225,137

Marine Expert Outlines U.S. Naval Aid