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## KRUPPS GUNS OUTDONE ON THE SOMME FRONT

Bavarian's Vivid Picture of Work of Allied Bombardment—Solid Earth Sinks—Ober Lieutenant Says Trench Warfare is No Longer Possible in Face of Such Devastating Artillery Work.

PARIS, July 25.—The following despatch has been received from Georges Le Hir on the British front, dated July 18:

During the last few days I have traversed the whole ant heap, visited burrow after burrow, and everywhere have been amazed at the British troops. They are light-hearted, careless and full of jokes. While waiting for the assault the Poilus are serenely calm, never careless or laughing. It is their wonderful calm, their total freedom from nervousness or anxiety that strikes one most, and the secret of this calm is confidence, absolute, complete spontaneous confidence begotten and fostered by our artillery. For by nothing so much as the thunder of our own cannonade is the infantryman's heart gladdened, his certainty of victory assured. In the tumult of French artillery the German response goes unnoticed. It is "artillery preparation for the attack" that is now in progress, and what is means our soldiers can see around them in ruined trenches and torn up shelters that recently were strong fortifications, constructed according to the most efficient principles of modern war. The best possible evidence of our bombardment is given by a German who experienced it.

**Bavarian Officer's Story.**  
A Bavarian Ober Lieutenant was found this morning by a reconnaissance party near La Maisonnette. Evidently he had crawled forward from his own trenches when the fire became unbearable, but he was so utterly unnerved that at first he was unable to speak coherently. His clothing was just a mass of mud, and the contusions covering his body witnessed the truth of the statement that he was frequently buried by exploding shells. Later on, when restored, he declared he was a student at Jena University, and said in good French: "My regiment was holding a strong system of trenches on the left bank of the Somme, just across from Peronne, near Four de Paris, bordering the Somme Canal. The positions were dominated by the slopes of the Blaches plateau, where the French are now installed, and were limited on the other side by the impassable Somme marshes.

**Solid Earth Sinks.**  
"For six days and nights we have been exposed to an unremitting French cannonade. I experienced bombardments before that. The smoke was so dense that it was impossible for us to see the enemy. The shells spread, with red, green and yellow flashes. Once, just before twilight yesterday, there was a momentary lull, and I caught a glimpse of the surroundings. The effect was extraordinary. The solid earth had literally sunk over a wide area, actually flattened as with a gigantic hammer by shells falling so continuously that the holes coalesced into one vast basin. As proof of the lowered level I perceived the water of the canal had filtered in and was forming a regular lagoon.

"I admit that, as defensive works, trenches over which we worked so long and hard are now utterly useless. Our staffs ought never to have sacrificed men in such a position. We cannot withstand your bombardment. We die, and die uselessly. Imagine my deep trench transformed into shapeless earth, heaps of them into gluey mud as the canal waters advanced. Vainly we tried to dig new holes for stifled groans marked another comrade torn by explosion or suffocating in that horrible mess. After a time we ceased all effort, abandoned hopelessly to our fate. Last night was a never-ending agony. Only the dead were happy. The few that survived envied their escape.

**Fight Knocked Out of Them**  
"At last, in the morning the tiny band of us assembled courage to confront death by your fusillade in preference to the slow horrors of suffocation. Painfully inch by inch we crawled forward toward your trenches. All idea of fighting had left us long before. We were just miserable wretches, whose only impulse was mortal fear. How desperate our choice is shown by the fact that I alone got through alive. Even now I can hardly believe it. It is incredible that men should endure so much and still be living."  
It is on hearing such tales from the enemy that one comes to appreciate fully the heroism of the French defenders of Verdun.

## If the Gulf Stream is Out of Its Banks, it Will Go Back

Hydrographic Office of United States Navy Says it is Not Unusual for it to Shift Toward Coast Temporarily.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Has the gulf stream changed its course? Expert opinion is inclined to answer the question in the affirmative.

But, according to the same opinion, there is nothing unusual in a deflection in the course of the great warm current that exerts a marked influence on climate.

Whatever truth there may be in the reports that the Gulf stream is not following its usual channel, but has approached nearer the coast of the United States, the fact remains that the deflection is merely temporary and the stream will resume its flow within its normal limits when temporary conditions that appear to have affected it are overcome by the steady, consistent rotation of the earth.

**Some Theories About Sharks.**  
Mariners have reported that the gulf stream had gone all awry. They found that it had shifted nearer to the coast. Some persons attributed the invasion of Atlantic coast waters by sharks to this shifting.

One theory advanced for the deflecting of the stream was the influence of the firing of the big guns of the American battleships in target practice, but this idea seems to have few believers.

Experts of the hydrographic office of the United States navy, while not committing themselves to any suggestion or theory, appear to be of the opinion that recent cyclonic disturbances off the Atlantic coast have served to check the rate of the gulf stream's flow, with the result that the eastward pressure of the stream due to the rotation of the earth is lessened thus permitting the warm stream to spread toward the coast.

In order to get an expert opinion

in the matter Secretary Daniels was asked today to have the hydrographic office make a statement that would either set at rest the reports that the course of the gulf stream had been deflected or explain what measure of truth there was in these reports.

At the instance of Secretary Daniels the following statement, signed by Capt. Thomas Snowden, U.S.N., hydrographer of the navy, was furnished to the Boston Herald through Secretary Daniels' office:

"There is nothing unusual in reports of alterations in the position and course of the Gulf Stream. These are merely ephemeral variations in the circulatory system of the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf Stream is assigned its position by the resultant of the forces which cause its existence, and the relatively small changes that are observed in its places and extent, and rate of flow occur in response to changes in the resultant of such of its constituent causes as the winds of the globe and the distribution of temperature, salinity and barometric pressure.

**Will Go Back Again In Time.**  
"So long as the rate of rotation of the earth remains unchanged and remains within the same limits of variation from year to year and from century to century, the Gulf Stream will assume its normal place under normal circumstances, and will vary from its normal place, be it ever so little, upon each interference with those conditions which prevail in the long run.

"In illustration of this meaning mention may be made of the effects of the passage of a cyclonic storm, such as has been passing along our coast during the last few days, in distur-

ing the normal interplay upon the Gulf Stream of the influences of the normal winds and the rotation of the earth. By reason of the earth's rotation a mass moving freely in the northern hemisphere in any direction will be deflected to the right-hand side of its course of movement, and this deflective force is the greater the more rapid the movement is. Thus the waters of the Gulf Stream flowing northward from the Straits of Florida have a tendency to move to the eastward, that is, there will be a pressure in the direction, which will vary in amount according to the rapidity of flow, causing the Gulf Stream water to go deep on the eastern side of the Stream and allowing the heavy water from below to come nearer to the surface on the western side toward the coast of the United States.

"The counter-clockwise rotation of the winds of cyclonic storms passing through the western part of the Atlantic Coast along our coast give rise to strong northerly winds in place of the normal southerly and westerly winds, and so their influence is to check the rate of flow of the Gulf Stream, and consequently to lessen the pressure of deflection to the eastward due to the earth's rotation and to allow the warm water of the Gulf Stream to deepen on the western side and the stream to spread beyond its usual confines toward the coast of the United States.

"THOMAS SNOWDEN,  
"Captain United States Navy Hydrographer."

## Findings of the Fuse Commission Told in Brief

OTTAWA, July 22.—The Medith-Duff Commission's report on the fuse contracts of the International Arms and American Ammunition Companies, for which Ottawa has been waiting patiently for several weeks, is out and fairly well digested already.

As viewed at Ottawa, the finding of the learned Judges affords comfort for both sides of the controversy, but it is pretty well agreed that numerically, at least, the conclusions favorable to the Shell Committee's side outweigh those of the other.

So far as Gen. Hughes and the Government are concerned, they are unscathed. Many points characterized the judgment, friends of the defendants point out that there are in favor of the Committee the conclusions:

1. That the contracts were entered into in good faith
2. That no dishonesty or pressure from "higher up" characterized the award.
3. That though Col. Carnegie's judgment on certain lines is strongly criticized, his integrity is not impaired.
4. That neither the Shell Committee nor Gen. Hughes profited in any way or were guilty of any dishonest or questionable act in connection with the knowledge of or share in Allison's or other commissions.
5. That the default of manufacturer-

ing companies was attributable mainly to sub-contractors.

6. That in the ordinary acceptance of the term they were not "mushrooms."

7. That apart from Allison's connection with it, the division of a \$1,000,000 commission was not out of the ordinary.

8. That Messrs. Harris and Russell, whose evidence is not impugned, wrongly interpreted what Col. Carnegie said and were not told to "see Allison."

From the alternative viewpoint these considerations are offered:

1. The condemnation of Col. J. Wesley Allison.

2. That the fuse cases could have been manufacturing in Canada as well as in the United States.

3. That the price paid for them was a dollar in excess of what was reasonable, though the failure of the American Ammunition Company to make prompt delivery and the resultant cut in prices has minimized the loss to the Imperial Treasury.

4. That Col. Carnegie should have advised the Shell Committee especially W. G. Watts, who had interested himself particularly in the matter, that the contract being placed in the States, included, in addition to the time fuses, graze fuses, which could have been fabricated in Canada.

The report is unanimous. There had been a measure of suspicion, judging from their comments during the progress of the inquiry, that the learned judges might not agree in their conclusions. They have been able to do so, however, and the language of the report is taken by some as indicating, to a limited extent at least, a possible compromise.

The conclusion on the whole is very temperate, and in the main, is a judicial review of the outstanding points of the case.

The Government has always taken the position that it had nothing to do with the Shell Committee as an Imperial body, though the Minister of Militia was nominally the head of it. The Commission's conclusions are not inconsistent with that viewpoint.

As the Shell Committee was a British body, and the authorities overseas were advised of the inquiry, a copy of the Commission's report will probably be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary.

### The Hard Job.

The late James J. Hill said in one of his St. Paul success talks:

"The easy thing to do is to dream of the splendid burst of work we are going to put forth next week, or next month, or next year. The hard thing to do is to tackle, right this minute, our present distasteful job with might and main."

"An engaged chap was once bragging to me about his girl's love."

"Emma, he said, 'vows that she'd be willing to go to the end of the earth with me.'"

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