

GERMANS FACING ALLIES IN WEST LACK CONFIDENCE OF EARLY STAGES OF THE WAR

Methods Adopted by Enemy in Recent Fighting in France and Belgium Shows Kaiser's Men Less Daring in Their Attacks and British and French Have Struck Fear Into Their Hearts—Eye Witness Describes the Battle from Day to Day.

Paris, Dec. 21.—The French war office tonight made public a report of an eye-witness of events along the battle line from December 7 to December 15. It said:

"During the period from the 7th to the 15th of December the ascendancy gained by our infantry has placed us in a position to make in various parts of the front, progress which seems to have disturbed the enemy.

"The German infantry is more cautious, and continuous sniping by them denotes a certain amount of nervousness. The fact that they are using searchlights and lighting rockets more and more reveals also their fear of attacks.

"After the expensive and useless experiments of last month our adversaries seem almost everywhere to be reduced to defensive measures, and it is we, who, on the whole of the front have assumed the offensive.

"Also, in the artillery duels our batteries are showing more and more their superiority.

"Between the sea and the Lys river the enemy, who from the seventh to the ninth instant, had contented themselves with bombarding our lines, and particularly the city of Ypres, on the 10th inst. directed to the south that city three infantry attacks against our trenches.

"The first two of these attacks were repulsed. The third reached our first line of trenches, but on the following night we regained this position. On the twelfth, the enemy made another attack, which also was repulsed.

"On the fourteenth our infantry took the offensive, in spite of the exceedingly muddy condition of the field and succeeded in capturing a German trench several hundred metres in length.

German Artillery Small Help to Infantry

Our infantry here held their ground against fierce counter-attacks by the enemy.

"The next day with the co-operation of the Belgian troops we succeeded in rallying forth from Nieuport and taking a position on the western outskirts of the villages of Lembarzysde and Saint Georges.

"During all these engagements the German artillery gave their infantry very poor assistance.

"Between the Lys and the Oise, our progress has not been less marked. The taking of the Chateau Vermelles, of which mention was made in our last weekly statement, permitted us to proceed by sapping toward the village of Vermelles.

"On the seventh, Vermelles as well as the village of Ruitore fell into our hands. We discovered that the house was mined. The explosives were in place but the Germans had not had time to fire them. In the streets we found a number of bodies and a large quantity of war materials that had been abandoned.

"The occupation of Vermelles by our troops has forced the enemy to fall back three kilometres (about two miles).

Trenches of Opposing Forces 300 Feet Apart.

"The same day we captured some trenches to the south of Carancy and we made in the region of Quenoy advances, averaging from 350 to 900 metres (a metre is about three feet.) Our skirmishers advanced as far as the wire entanglement of the enemy and succeeded, under a violent fire, in gaining a foothold.

"On the 8th, some fierce engagements occurred on the road from Lille to the north of Roolincourt around a barricade, which eventually remained in our hands.

"On the 9th in front of Parvillers and Fontenecourt, we made fresh progress. In this section we are only about three hundred feet from the German trenches.

"In front of Andechy we made progress averaging from thirty to six hundred metres.

"On the 11th, to the east of the road to Lille we blew up by a mine a German sapping tunnel. Our Zouaves and Sappers were quick in springing into the excavation made by the explosion. Once there we bombarded the German trenches with machine pistols.

"The same day near Lihons one of our mines was detonated and blew up and destroyed a German counter-mine. The enemy Sappers were thrown to the air in the midst of a cloud of smoke.

"The Germans manifested their activity only by two attacks, which were easily repulsed.

"The German artillery which on the fourteenth bombarded Mareuil succeeded only in causing some material damage. On the other hand our batteries proved their superiority. On the thirteenth they smashed the trenches and scattered the enemy's material. On the fourteenth our detachments of troops in the rear of the trenches.

"In spite of the cold and the rains which make heavy weather, the morale of our troops remains perfect. They show ingenuity in remedying the dampness of the trenches and the want of blankets by various systems of interlacing limbs of trees, like wickerwork, and using corrugated sheet iron roofing, the doors of houses and planks and other timber.

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A GOOD HELP BUT MUCH MORE NEEDED YET

Work of Unloading Relief Ship at Rotterdam Begun—Many Belgian Towns at End of Their Resources.

Rotterdam, Dec. 21.—When the Montreal Gazette correspondent boarded the steamer Doris this forenoon today work of unloading was well in hand, and hundreds of bags of Canadian flour were already placed in lighters ready for immediate despatch to Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent for distribution to starving towns and villages in Belgium.

The total value of the Doris's cargo was \$225,000 the chief items on the bill of lading being 2,225 cases of canned goods, 4,245 cases, 639 barrels, 600 parcels of clothing; 1,500 boxes of apples; 10,000 barrels of potatoes; 12,368 bags, 600 barrels of flour, together with supplies of fish, oatmeal, soap, coffee, cocoa, cheese, biscuits, and other necessities.

On the Nova Scotia steamer, the Gazette's correspondent noted inscriptions in French, addressed to the brave Allies with the sympathy and admiration of Nova Scotia. It was necessary to remove these in deference to the feelings of the enemy by whose permission the goods can only reach the sufferers.

A glance over the holds revealed, cheeses from Prince Edward Island, evaporated apples from Ontario, salmon from Victoria and parcels from Montreal, Toronto also sent both food and clothing, which were all the more acceptable in view of the cold, damp weather now experienced in Europe.

Generally speaking, the provisions were in good condition with the exception of the sacks of potatoes, which had suffered what is known among sailors as "sweating," through imperfect packing. Also three barrels of the steamer Memento from London with relief cargo to the value of \$60,000, while tomorrow the steamer Skotland from Montreal with a cargo of apples is due, and notwithstanding the need for further help is most urgent, as several towns in Belgium are practically at the end of their resources, even in regard to the bare necessities of life. Your correspondent was given to understand that the government of Holland has addressed a note to Berlin supporting the request also assigned to the American relief committee here a lawyer to advise on points of international policy, thus affording another evidence of sympathy.

A letter has been addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Hague, by Le Comité National De Secours Et D'Alimentation at Brussels expressing appreciation of the Netherlands government's generosity in granting advance supplies of wheat, pending the arrival of further cargoes now in transport. The committee has also written Mr. Whitlock, the American Minister at Brussels, thanking him for intervention with Berlin in regard to affording facilities for distribution of relief supplies.

CHANGE IN LINE GIVES RUSSIANS ADVANTAGE OF DESTINATION OF SHIPMENTS

Head of General Staff Warns Public Against Misleading Reports From Enemy's Press Bureau Concerning Recent Operations in West.

Petrograd, Dec. 21.—The following official statement was issued here this evening:

"The head of the general staff says that owing to the misleading reports widely printed in the newspapers during the past few days concerning the condition and strategic position of our armies he is obliged to warn the Russian public against the partiality and inaccuracy of these reports.

"The fact that our armies adopted a narrower front was the outcome of a decision arrived at after full and free consideration by the military authorities.

"The reason for this plan is obvious in view of the concentration in front of our army of considerable German forces.

"Moreover, this plan offers other advantages concerning which, unhappily, we cannot give details for the present for military reasons."

GOVT INFORMED OF DESTINATION OF SHIPMENTS

International Nickel Company Issues Statement in Reply to References to Shipments of Nickel to States.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—The International Nickel Company, the chief source of supply of nickel from Canadian ores, in a statement issued tonight addressed "to the Canadian public," takes issue with recent press references to the destination of nickel shipped from Canada to the United States. The statement, which is signed by the company's president, A. Monell, is as follows:

"In view of the widespread comment in the Canadian daily and technical press as to the destination of shipments of nickel made and being made by the International Nickel Company, and obtained from material of Canadian origin, as well as the references to a European controlling influence in its affairs, the company begs to submit to the Canadian public the following statements of fact:

"1.—There is absolutely no influence exerted in the conduct of the affairs of the company, or of any of its subsidiaries, by any European manufacturing or similar industry, nor by any individual connected with them, nor by any one in European financial circles.

"2.—Full information as to the destination of shipments of nickel made by the company has been in the possession of the Dominion authorities since the outbreak of the European war and they are currently kept cognizant of all exports of nickel, as well as of all local shipments made by the company.

"3.—While recognizing that refining at the point of production, that is to say, the mines, is the ideal condition, economic conditions, seriously affecting cost of production, have dictated the present location of nickel refining, and with the present state of the art, any material change in such economic conditions would react in a manner detrimental to the Canadian nickel industry.

"The nickel ore is refined at works in New Jersey and in Wales.

M'GILL'S RHODES SCHOLAR FOR 1914 NATIVE OF P. E. ISLAND

Montreal, Dec. 21.—Percy Corbett, son of Rev. Thomas Corbett, Presbyterian minister of Gull Lake, Sask., has been chosen by the committee of the faculty of Arts of the McGill University as the Rhodes scholar for 1914.

Mr. Corbett was born at Tyne Valley, P. E. I.

MEMBER OF S. AFRICAN PARLIAMENT ARRESTED; FAVORABLE TO GERMANS

Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, Africa, Dec. 21.—Via London, Dec. 22.—Bayard Wessels, member of the South African parliament for Boshiesem, has been arrested here. At a meeting of the loyal Dutch at Boshiesem recently a resolution was passed urging his arrest on account of alleged activities in connection with the German cause.

NOTICE TO MARINERS

All vessels are forbidden north of Ireland.

J. C. CHESLEY, Agent for Marine and Fisheries Dept.

FISHING PRIVILEGE FOR SALE

Tenders will be received up to and including December 31st, 1914, for the Bluff and Weir fishing privilege Stratford Shore, from January 1st, 1915, to 1st December, 1915. Terms cash on acceptance of tender.

A. O. H. WILSON, 208 Chesley Street, St. John.

MAYOR SECURES RIFLES FOR USE OF HOME GUARDS

Central Committee of Military men appointed at last evening's meeting—An enthusiastic organization.

There was a good attendance at a general meeting of the Home Guard held in the Court House last night. His Worship Mayor Frink presided and announced that he had completed arrangements for procuring fifty rifles for the use of the members in their drill. It was resolved to appoint a central committee composed of the Mayor, Lieut. Col. A. Blaine, E. T. Sturdee, H. H. McLean, J. B. M. Baxter, A. J. Armstrong, J. R. Armstrong and M. B. Edwards to advise and direct the guards until four companies are formed. This committee will meet on Tuesday next to discuss matters. After some discussion regarding the drills and other matters, the meeting adjourned.

The guards are at present quite strong in numbers, and the men are in earnest about the drill and are taking great interest in it. It is expected that within a very short time the four companies will be enrolled and arrangements completed for different places to drill in. At present the companies are drilling in a large room in the Customs House.

The Belgian Relief

Mayor Frink acknowledges the following for the Belgian relief fund:

People of Newcastle and Upper Alwick, N. B., per W. A. Davidson, \$105.25; F. O. Comins, Plume Ridge, Charlotte county, \$5; C. B. N., \$5; Robert Sherwood, Oty Glen, Rothesay, \$2; sale potatoes, Provincial Hospital, per James Glichrist, \$190; Mrs. M. J. Driscoll, \$5; D. F. Brown of Brown and Company, \$25; Mrs. Arthur F. Merrill, \$25; Miss E. E. Harrison, \$3; a friend, Hampton, \$5; Mrs. J. F. Garden, \$2; proceeds of concert at New Jersey, N. B., per F. M. Anderson, \$42; Mrs. H. F. Smith, Moncton, \$5; Mrs. F. S. White, Moncton, \$10; proceeds of parlour concert by pupils and friends of Miss Muriel McIntyre, \$58.20; Junior and Busy Bees branches of Andover and Perth Red Cross Society, per Mrs. G. F. Baird, \$100; Lorne Brown (sale of newspapers), \$1.56; J. Cameron City, \$2; Miss Florence M. Morton, Sackville, \$5.

PERSONAL

Mr. Worthington P. Dotts and Mr. Donald Campbell, of New York, are in the city, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Nevins.

E. W. Foulds, the manager of the New Zealand Line, is in the city. Mr. Broadhurst and Walter Brown of the same line arrived yesterday.

YACHT CLUB BOYS TO AID BRITISH TARS

R.K.Y.C. will open subscription list and conduct lottery for Jellicoe Fund.

There was a good representative meeting of the members of the R. K. Y. C. in their rooms last night when Commodore Wetmore presided. The chief subject of discussion was on the advisability of doing something to assist the British fleet with oil skins, rubber boots and comfortable underclothing. It was shown that the sailors on the ships at present in the North Sea and the Atlantic are almost constantly at their guns and sleeping in the gun casings and that the weather is very cold, they therefore need warm underclothing, gloves, etc., oil skins, rubber boots as well as other articles of clothing which are not supplied to them. It was decided by the members of the yacht club that subscriptions be taken towards the fund. In connection with the subscription lists a member of the club has donated an automobile to be disposed of and the amount raised to go towards the fund. A committee was appointed to take charge of the arrangements and the meeting adjourned to the call of the chair.

Johnston L. O. L. Officers.

The annual meeting of Johnston, L. O. L. No. 24 was held in the Orange Hall, Germain street, last night when reports presented showed the lodge to be in an excellent financial condition having one thousand dollars in the bank. The election of officers resulted as follows:

D. B. Webster, Master.

Lawton, D. M.

John Barnes, Chap.

Robert Willis, Rec. Sec.

Wm. Simpson, Fin. Sec.

James Holman, Treas.

Fred Nice, Lecturer.

Wm. Quigley, D. of C.

Henry Butt, I. T.

K. D. Spenser, F. of C.

The officers were installed by Grand Master W. B. Wallace assisted by W. H. Sully, district lecturer.

Presentation.

Captain George Keefe of the 26th Battalion, was presented with a wrist watch by the office and travelling staff of the James Robertson Co., Ltd., at the office of the company yesterday.

Reading Room for Soldiers.

The corporation of Trinity church have the school house at the disposal of those in charge of providing entertainment for the soldiers. A reading and writing room will be fitted up, and the rooms will be opened for the soldiers every evening between the hours of five and nine.

FRANCE

Paris, Dec. 21.—The following official communication was issued by the War Office tonight:

"The British troops have attacked and captured the headquarters of most of the trenches previously lost. Before Lihons the enemy delivered four successive attacks but they were repulsed. In the trenches which we had previously won in that region, but all of them were repulsed.

"An attack to the northwest of Puisseulles, south of Noyon, we have gained a foothold in the enemy's trenches of the first line, and have made progress in the wood of Saint Marce.

"There has been no other report of any note on the operations of the day."

RUSSIA

Petrograd, Dec. 21.—The following official communication was issued tonight from the headquarters of the army of Caucasus:

"In the direction of Van on December 20, engagements occurred which resulted in the defeat of the Turks, among whom there were a great number of wounded. During the pursuit of the enemy we captured a piece of mountain artillery and five hundred other pieces of equipment.

"In the direction of Gory-Kamayah, (Trans-Caspian district) there have been several engagements of no importance."

AUSTRIA

Vienna, via London, Dec. 21.—The following official communication was issued today:

"In the Carpathians our attacks in the district of Upper Lotocza are progressing well. To the northeast of Lupkow Pass, on the front, north of Kroano and Tushow and on the Lower Danube river, severe fighting continues.

"The situation in North Poland is unchanged."

IRON CROSS WILL NOT SHIELD THEM FROM SHAFTS OF DISHONOR

Mayor of Scarborough Says German Sailors Have Yet to Learn Glorious Traditions of the Sea.

London, Dec. 21.—The Mayor of Scarborough, in a letter replying to the message of Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, expressing the sympathy of himself and of the British navy at the losses sustained through the German bombardment of Scarborough, says:

"It is evident that the enemy did not dare face our fleet and so attacked an undefended town. In this way Scarborough has learned the tricks of the struggle that is now proceeding.

"While we deplore the loss of life and property, mourn for our dead, and sympathize with our wounded, we nevertheless are as fully determined as ever that the war must be fought to a successful finish.

"Our supplies at the attack were greater as we had been led to believe from the conduct of the plucky commander of the Emden that German sailors understood something about the glorious old traditions of the sea. It is evident from our experiences of Wednesday that this is not so.

"Some newcomers into honorable professions have been taken about and lastly the traditions. As their commanders get older in the service they will find that the Iron Cross pinned on their breasts will not shield them from the shafts of shame and dishonor."

ART EXHIBITS IN AID OF PATRIOTIC FUND

Royal Canadian Academy Arranging for Exhibitions Throughout the Dominion—St. John on the List.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—The Royal Canadian Academy is arranging a series of exhibitions of pictures in aid of the Patriotic Fund. About eighty pictures contributed from Canadian artists, have been collected and will be shown and sold in all the principal cities east of Winnipeg.

The exhibitions will be held in the following order: Toronto (beginning on December 29), Winnipeg, Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton and London, after which the exhibition will be held in Toronto.

MAY BE OPPOSITION IN CARLETON COUNTY

Special to The Standard

Hartland, N. B., Dec. 21.—Present indications are that the election of B. F. Smith will not go unchallenged. Mr. C. E. Carleton, who is the owner of Woodstock was here on Saturday and it is understood that a convention will be called for Saturday, the 26th, in Lyric Hall here, when some decision will probably be arrived at. There are various rumors of a possible candidate, the strongest of which is that Mr. Geo. Upham will be pitted against Mr. Smith. The name of Wendall Jones is also handled freely and a report is current that the new leader of the opposition, Mr. Robinson, will take the field in opposition to Mr. Smith. It is quite certain, however, that the party will hold a convention Saturday afternoon. In the meantime both sides have forgotten the European war and politics is on every tongue.

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 21.—According to the newspaper Tijd, the Germans have evacuated Middelkerke. There has been considerable movement among the German troops in West Flanders.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FIGHTING GALICIA Men and Division

Petrograd, Dec. 21.—The Russian general headquarters in the region of Galicia has fallen back towards the border into East Prussia.

"On the left bank of the Vistula the troops and the operations are extremely favorable to our side. The enemy left behind them a large number of wounded and captured officers and men.

"The attempts to break back into the line of the Vistula to Pilleca are thus made more than sixty miles from the line running through Warsaw into a cordon of the Vistula to Pilleca. The main advance is now along the Beuz railroad running through Warsaw.

"Snow, rain and other factors are forcing their operations to a great difficulty. They have started in which the Russian troops are being formed, but they are losing. On the southern front the fighting is still of a defensive nature. The front line is still in an important position.

Reported that of Trenches in the vicinity of the city of Lodz. The fighting is still of a defensive nature. The front line is still in an important position.

STONE—At Penobscot, N. B., on the 19th inst., Titus M. Stone, aged 75 years

Funeral Tuesday, 2.30 p. m.

CULLEN—At Parisville, on the 20th inst., Catherine Cullen, leaving one brother and one sister to mourn.

Funeral from her late residence, Main street, Parisville, on Tuesday morning, at eight o'clock, to St. Rose's church for high mass of requiem. Friends are invited to attend. Boston and Portland, Maine, papers please copy.

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THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH

WAR AND OTHER VIEWS

UNIQUE LYRIC

NOT THE END BUT THE LAST

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