

GERMANS' NERVE AND HOPES COLLAPSED AFTER THEIR DISMAL FAILURE TO CAPTURE VERDUN

VERDUN ROCK ON WHICH GERMAN CONFIDENCE WAS SHATTERED A FRENCH ARMY CHIEF DECLARES

Leader in the Somme Pays a Glowing Tribute to the Valor of the British Troops and Says that Peronne will Fall at the Time Appointed.

Special cable to the N. Y. Herald, Paris, Aug. 1.—One of the highest French military chiefs now commanding at the Somme, whose name is not allowed to be published, has made several interesting statements to the noted writer De Maiziere, who repeats them in the Petit Parisien.

The general pays a warm tribute to the British soldier and commander also in a special way the efficiency of training and the bravery of the German troops.

"The process of driving the Germans out of France and Belgium will not be speedy, he says; temporary disappointments for the Allies are not improbable; even grave surprises are possible; but he declares the defeat of the Germans is now certain. It is not the case of saying, as the French so frequently say of late, 'We shall get them,' he declares. The French can now say, 'We have got them.' It was Verdun that defeated the German army, this commander affirms. The battle of Verdun is ended and has passed into history. The French troops at Verdun delivered a blow, for the first time, at the German brain. Before that the Kaiser's troops, despite all setbacks and disillusion, believed firmly in their ultimate victory. Verdun terrified them and made them doubt themselves, for it forced upon them the conviction that over and above German Kultur there is a far superior quality—French valor.

At the Somme front are two high French military chiefs, General Fayolle, commander of the Army of the Somme, and General Foch, commander of the French group of armies of the north. General Foch is affable to writers and correspondents, but insists on his name being omitted when the statements he makes are published.

British of Shakespearean Stature.

"When I say 'We have got them,' the military chief is quoted as saying, 'it must be understood that I do not wish to have any one believe that a victorious push shall from tomorrow bring us across our reconquered departments and across Belgium to the doors of Germany. What I mean is that the most simple mind must now be forced to recognize that the German is now thoroughly scared at the prospect of a third winter campaign.'"

"The Anglo-French offensive has been let loose officially, practically and in earnest. The Germans know it better than we, for it is at their expense.

"First of all let us speak of the British, for it is to them that once more, although in far different circumstances this time, we French have repeated to them the celebrated phrase, 'Five the first, Messieurs les Anglais' (the courteous phrase addressed by the French to the British at the battle of Fontenoy). And let us profit by this opportunity to cut short certain stories.

"Some persons far remote from the war, armchair and tea table warriors, have undertaken to criticize our British collaborators, who are said to have imposed us on prudent methods and to have given us lessons of using reason in the employment of energy. Nothing, however, could be less true than this, and the world may well believe one who has seen them at work every day when he says that these prudent Britons, these practical Britons, these cold and phlegmatic Britons, who are viewed through the

works of Dickens, when in fact they are of Shakespearean stature historically and profoundly, are in reality sublimely rash in action.

"It certainly is not necessary to push them, these British soldiers, these heroic rivals of our own men, these powerful allies, these dear comrades whose blue eyes reflect their untamed courage. You would say as I do if you had seen them at work, and they certainly never have to be invited to take part in any attack where courage, self-sacrifice or audacity is in question, but rather have to be restrained where patience might be needed.

"And now let us speak of the enemy. I beg of you to be assured that I am far from making my own the stupid things which have circulated in certain newspapers and according to which the German army would be composed only of sad cowards who, at the sight of a bayonet, offer only this contemptible defence, 'Kameraden! Kameraden!' (the phrase used by German soldiers when they desire to surrender). Far from associating myself in such a judgment, the very smallest weakness of which is that it fails to recognize the admirable effort of our troops who have begun to conquer this powerful German army, I believe that in no war had a general ever, even the generals famed in history, to fight an army better organized or soldiers more passively brave.

"And yet we have got them! We have got them because by imitating them we became rather slowly their masters. We have got them because on July 1, in the Somme theatre of operations, a German battalion which in the morning had hoped to take possession of our position at B, was made prisoner by noon by the British troops and at six o'clock in the evening of the same day was on its way to London, which truly shows an excellent method and an estimable practical organization.

"We have got them because, regardless of the ridiculous boasting of superior officers whom we have taken prisoner, we shall take Peronne at the appointed hour, in spite of its marshes in spite of its famous defensive 'horse shoe' every nail of which is known to us.

"Our liberating march toward the German frontier perhaps will be long. Consequently let us be under no illusions. But from today that march is assured, with the same exactitude a mathematical axiom is based upon. We may have momentary disappointments; that is to be feared. We may have redoubtable surprises, though hardly probable. But from today the enemy seems to us to have been struck.

"Have you seen poisoned rats running here and there under the action of the poison which is worrying them? If you have not it is because you have not been long on our front. The rat is the enemy of the French. We poison it and its agony is worthy of being observed. It goes and comes, bewildered, seeking something, a hole, a trunk of a tree, a tuft of grass, anything behind which it may take shelter to die.

Like Poisoned Rats.

"The German army is poisoned like a drove of rats. Where can it go to hide in Russia, die on the Somme, in East, in Champagne, in Argonne? Where is it to die? It has the embarrassment of the choice, and it has the supreme suffering of those long ago

nies with which certain organisms have-to-pay for the exceptional vigor of their temperament.

However it may be, the German army sooner or later is condemned to death. Why? I am going to tell you. On account of Verdun.

"It is Verdun which will conquer the enemy on the Somme. It is Verdun which will permit us to take Peronne, and all the rest, as far as will be necessary. It is Verdun which, by terroring the Germans, has smashed, at the same time as their battalions, their pride, which has made them doubt themselves and which has impressed on their brain with cannon shots this idea, which their mind had not suspected, that over and above German Kultur is a superior quality—French valor.

"You are here at the front and you hear the British guns. Those masses of men you can see hidden behind a fold of the terrain, and who are waiting the order to advance, are the troops of the Army of the North. You are at the Somme front in the midst of troops whose prowess is justly honored. You see all that and you realize its significance. With my face to the enemy, before Peronne, I exclaim with all my heart, 'Glorie to Verdun!'

The same sentiment inspired the proclamation by General Joffre in which he brought to the knowledge of the soldiers of Verdun the Russian successes in Galicia, French victory over the Germans at Verdun made possible the Russian successes and the great combined offensive of all the Allies.

AN OPEN AIR MEETING

Special to The Standard.

St. George, August 4.—The second anniversary of the declaration of war was observed here tonight by an open air meeting which began at 7.30. The speakers were on the band stand and there was a large attendance. Music was supplied by the St. George band and the celebration was a success from every point of view. No collection was taken, but the speakers all made reference to the needs of the Patriotic Fund and no doubt there will be a generous response when the people are called on to give.

The chair was occupied by Mayor Lawrence and the resolution was moved by Dr. H. I. Taylor, M. L. A., and seconded by Senator Gillmor. The other speakers were M. E. Baldwin, Dr. C. C. Alexander, Rev. B. H. Penwarden, Rev. J. Spencer and Dr. H. I. Russell, of Buffalo, whose address was especially interesting as it conveyed a message of sympathy from the people of the United States. Dr. Russell is a former resident of St. George and was warmly welcomed by his many friends. It is expected that the function will prove a hearty stimulant to the various funds now claiming attention.

PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. McLeod, of C.P.R., located at Winnipeg, were visiting in this city yesterday on their way to the West.

PERSONAL

Miss Marie and Florence Barker of City Road left by steamer Hampton for Whitehead to visit Miss Sadie Haslett of Hazelbrook Farm.

Miss Virta Wilson, Victoria street, is spending the week-end at Hampton, the guest of Miss Gladys Dickson. John Tubman, who has been the guest of his aunt, Mrs. George McAfee, Red Head, for the past two weeks will leave this morning by the Ocean Limited for his home in Montreal.

Miss Jennie Carroll, accompanied by her niece, Miss Margaret Watters, left yesterday morning for Kincardine where they will spend a three weeks' vacation.

Linnet Won Yesterday.

Special to The Standard. Halifax, N. S., Aug. 4.—Every dog has his day and Mr. Talcott had his this afternoon at the yacht race, when the Linnet saved her time on the windward by the narrow margin of twenty-seven seconds, after racing over twenty-one miles of water for over three hours. The day was perfect racing weather. Four boats crossed the line, the Linnet and Mist for Chester, the Windward and Gem for Halifax. The Linnet led the way up to Littlefield buoy, when the Windward drew ahead and from there on it was a race against time. The situation now is, one race for the Gem, Mist and Linnet each. Tomorrow will decide the issue if either of these yachts secure a first place. The boats finished in this order: Linnet, Windward, Gem, Mist.

Praised Col. McAvity.

At the "Holy Hour" last night in the Cathedral Rev. William Duke, in the course of his address, took occasion to refer to the celebration which had just been observed, the second anniversary of the declaration of war, and to the splendid part which the men of St. John had played in this world war. He made special reference to Lieut-Col. McAvity and his gallant men of the 26th Battalion, who had made a name for themselves, which would live as long as time existed.

"CHRISTMAS STOCKING."

Early in September the first West Side Soldiers' Comfort Circle will conduct a "Christmas Stocking" for the boys at the front, and those prisoners with the Germans. This will take the form of a patriotic fair, lasting four days, conducted in the large curling rink, Rodney street, West End. Donations of useful and fancy articles, goods suitable for door prizes and other prizes will be much appreciated.

An important feature will be the preserve and pickle booth. Housewives who are putting up these luxuries will kindly remember and put up an extra bottle or two for the soldiers and either send to or advise the president and the goods will be called for.

Our aim is to send a special Christmas parcel to every soldier from St. John, to reach them by Christmas Day. Further press notices will appear later. Information gratefully given by the president, Mrs. E. A. Young, 194 Gullford street, west. Phone West 78-21.

DIED.

LYNCH—At the St. John Infirmary on Friday, the 4th inst, Mary Louise, beloved wife of Frank Lynch, leaving her husband and three children to mourn.

GALLAGHER—On Bunker Hill, La. p. obello, July 31st, Effie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Gallagher.

ANDERSON—Entered into rest on Friday morning, Eliza Quinton Anderson, wife of the late J. M. Anderson.

Funeral from St. James' Church on Saturday afternoon. Service at three o'clock.

London, Aug. 4.—The German administration of Belgium has imposed fines amounting to 10,000 marks on the Belgian committee in charge of the recent municipal art exhibition, according to a Rotterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. At the request of the German administration, says the despatch, the bust of the Emperor was exhibited among other sculptures. It caused such a hostile demonstration on the part of the visitors to the exhibition that it had to be removed.

New York, Aug. 3.—Twenty German women and children on their way from Tsing Tau, China, to their homes in Germany, sailed from here today on the Scandinavian line steamship United States. They are traveling under safe conduct passports issued by the Entente Allied governments.

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The famous inscription on the Liberty Bell, in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, is taken from Leviticus 25: 10. It reads, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."

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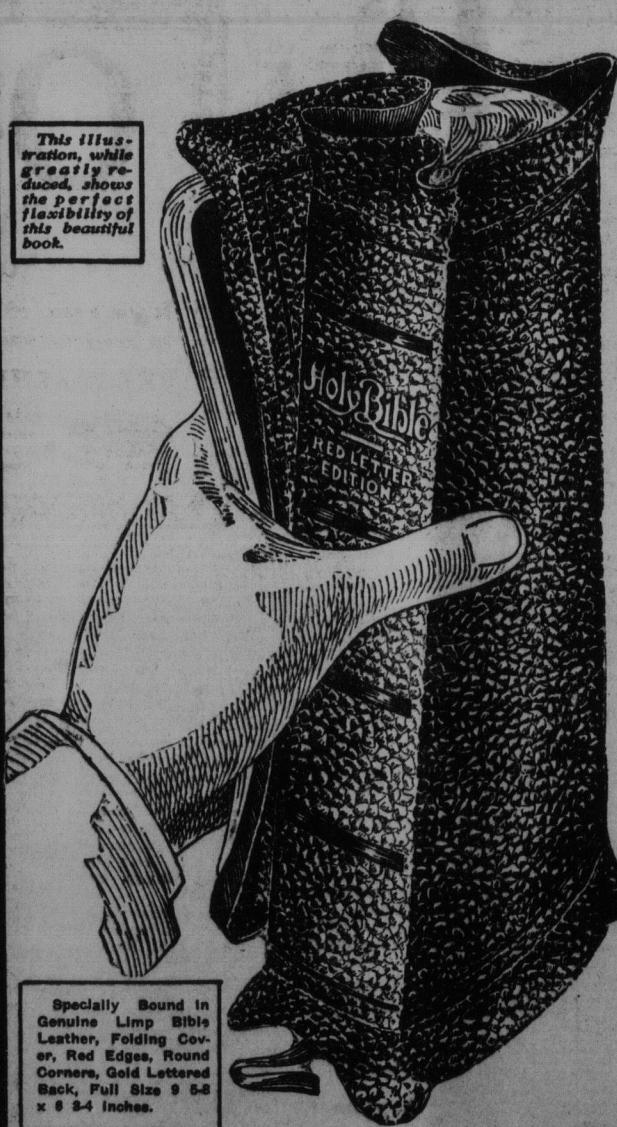
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