

Nights are Worse than Days at Verdun

"Hole of Hell" is described by German Correspondent with the Army at Verdun.

BERLIN, Oct. 24.—Dr. Max Osborn, German correspondent with the army of the Crown Prince at Verdun, sends a graphic description of what he terms this "hole of hell," where the night is made hideous with screaming shells and where death lurks at every turn.

"Darkness was falling as the long procession of ammunition wagons wended its way to the front," writes Dr. Osborn. "The woods stretching along yonder look pathetic in the dim light. The road is alive with supply wagons, cavalry and field kitchens, and the cries, curses and singing of the men intermingling in a fantastic and strange medley."

"Near the forest is an abandoned battery position, and there the men have planted vegetables. There is also a little summer casino for the officers. Suddenly from the casino emerges a giant of a man with fine blond beard and hair. Where have I seen him before? Sure enough, it was in the Champagne section that I saw him nearly a year ago in the

ent in that it does not only kill human beings, but inflicts havoc on nature too. Whole forests have been shelled to fragments and even hills have been demolished. The village of Vaux, formerly surrounded by hills and woods, now looks like a crater.

"There is no more rest at night. Between sunset and sunrise the battle is terrific. From out the woods behind us and in front of us are seen the lightning flashes of the big guns as they send out their deadly fire. The heavens are streaked with the flashes of searchlights and the whole sky is a reddish glare. I have never witnessed a thunderstorm that could equal this horrible sight."

Signal Rockets Streak Sky.
"Now and then the reddish glare is dotted with sky rockets sent up from the enemy's lines, which emit white, blue and green lights that float in the sky, signalling the various batteries. They have all their significance. A terrific explosion is heard sending fire and thick smoke high into the air. Apparently some munition depot has been struck by a shell."

"Without a pause this continues throughout the night. The whole landscape from Douaumont southwest to the Thiaumont work and east to the Vaux hills is one great zone of fire. Every time that those guns roar it means so many more souls sent into eternity. Never in any war has there been such a battle as this. There have been battles, big battles, but there was always rest for the troops, especially at night. But here by Verdun there is no rest. Here the nights are worse than the days."

"We know the sacrifices and losses of the French in this hole of hell, but we know also our own sacrifices. The night is like some wild bear that keeps its deadly fangs on us and won't let go. When will the day break?"

British Destroy "Tank" on Somme

Machine and Crew Wrecked to Prevent Capture, Says Paris Editor

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—The first British "tank" that appeared on the Somme front got out of the control of its driver and was destroyed, with its crew, by the British artillery, according to Lieutenant Stephane Lauzanne, former editor of the Paris *Matin*, who arrived here on the French liner *Fafayette*. The tank was destroyed M. Lauzanne said, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Germans.

"The men apparently lost control of it," he said, "and were steering straight for the German lines. To prevent the new war engine from falling into the hands of the enemy it was shelled to pieces by the British gunners with their own countrymen inside of it."

Mr. Lauzanne said that the French officers spoke of the sacrifice made in order to keep the secret of the invention, which had cost so much time and trouble, from falling into the hands of the Germans. It was a sad thing to have to do, but there was no help for it, as the men could not be got out of the machine, and therefore they had to perish with it. He heard the cost was about \$15,000 for each of the machines.

"The sight of the tank coming toward them inspired terror in the minds of the Germans, who thought it was some giant animal brought from India, and they did not know what to do," he said. "When the British artillery destroyed the machine it caused more wonder among the enemy and their officers, according to prisoners captured later, could not make it out at all and were very much worried."

"I heard there are about 100 tanks now on the Somme front. They are not much bigger than the armored motored cars, but very much more powerful in construction. Their caterpillar wheels are hidden underneath so that they cannot be shot away. Each tank carries two machine guns and one Lewis gun. The crew of five men inside cannot be hurt with machine gun fire, as it will not penetrate the armor."

"The tanks have a speed of six miles an hour. They are very useful in trench fighting, as they can go right down into the trenches and fire into the Germans without receiving any injury in return. For example, if the artillery has levelled three-quarters of a mile ahead, and the remaining quarter contains trenches which are still held by the Germans, a tank can go over the field no matter how rough it may be and wipe out the defenders in a few minutes. One end slopes up so that with the caterpillar wheels and the claw chain under the centre of the machine, it is easy for it to climb out again."

Figuring the number of times that the Germans have "completely crushed" it, the Russian army must have more lives than a cat.

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No Compromise is Now Possible

War to Continue Until the Germans are Thoroughly Beaten—May Last a Year Yet—But the Morale of the Enemy Soldiers Has Been Shattered

British Front in France, Oct. 24.—The war will last another year, according to the consensus of opinion among the British soldiers and their leaders. It is also the opinion of the Germans, if the views of prisoners count for anything. Before the grand offensive started, a high authority informed the correspondent of the Associated Press that the German line would not be broken this Summer, and that slow operations, wearing down the Germans would be inaugurated and would probably last through another Summer. With the approach of Winter conditions, which make military movements difficult, this officer recalled his prediction, and speaking of the situation to-day, he said: "We know what the German resources were and what ours were, and the time required to force a decisive victory for our arms is a matter of calculation."

German prisoners taken during the Summer invariably spoke of peace being a certainty in the Autumn. They regarded the Somme thrust as a final effort of the allies for a decision, and that after it peace would be made. Their tone has been entirely different of late. They recognize that it is a fight to a finish between the man power and resources of the two foes, and that an ultimate decision will come from the fearful attrition on the western front, which now will know no intermission until the end. The Germans are determined to make every village on the western front a fortress which will yield only when reduced to powder by shell fire, and every gully and crater a machine gun post to secure their defensive against a critical defeat.

Morale Shattered

It is a universal remark among the British that never has the morale of the prisoners varied more than now. "You will notice that we are always taking prisoners and that the Germans get very few of ours," said a staff officer. "Though small parties of our men are bound to go into hazardous positions in this kind of intricate operations at close quarters they die rather than yield. This shows their morale and the temper of the situation. Some Germans have never fought better, and some have never fought so badly as in the last few weeks. To-day, for example, twenty Germans practically threw up their hands and walked into the British lines. But the soldiers who took them prisoner, or their commanders, had no illusion that these prisoners typified the condition of the German army as a whole. There were other Germans who were ready to fight with that ferocity which expects no quarter."

However, whether it is a German who throws up his hands on the approach of a British charge or the survivor of a score who fought to the death, the opinion as to the duration of the struggle remains the same. All believe that the war has entered a stage where no compromise is to be expected and where victory will go to the side that has the ability to stick longest.

IDLE LAND HOLDERS

Toronto Mail and Empire.
Their lot may be rather unfortunate, in an individual sense, but the welfare of the country is dependent on the productive use of all the good agricultural areas close to the railways. If they wish to escape the taxes, and get returns on their money, why do they not employ a farm manager to operate their lands? Such crops as that of 1915 would speedily repay them, and give to their land the value of cultivation. Why do they not turn the less arable parts of it into pasture for cattle or horses? To leave idle land that might easily be made productive, in these days of enormous prices for farm products is wasteful from every point of view. Why do they not lease the lands to tenants on the share system? There are several alternatives to paying taxes for leaving the land untouched. But being in the business merely of raking off profits that genuine settlers must pay to get on to the land, they do not desire anything but the speculative chance. Speculators must be prepared to lose sometimes, as well as win.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP

ROME, via Paris, Oct. 26.—The total wheat harvest of the world is estimated by the International Agricultural Institute as seven per cent. below the average and 25 per cent. below that of last year. The institute's report includes for the first time the crop of European Russia, which it estimates to be 20 per cent. less than that of last year.

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