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German Officer Says Allies Use Aerial Torpedoes

Wounded Editor Describes Havoc Wrought by New Missile

BERLIN. (By way of London.)—An eye-witness account of the Anglo-French offensive is given in despatches from Lieut. Dambitsch, one of the editors of the "Zeitung am Mittag," whose company was stationed in the trenches near the Somme River.

The lieutenant was wounded during the preparatory bombardment, but was there long enough to witness the almost indescribable destruction wrought in the front line trenches by the artillery. He says that the massively built positions had been regarded as virtually indestructible and impregnable, but the event proved that the progress in development of offensive tactics since the September offensive had not been realized.

"Right at the beginning of the artillery preparation," says the lieutenant, "the enemy showed the Germans a new thing in the destruction of observation balloons. An aviator swooped down on one of these, and shot fire balls from above, a burst of flame marking the end of the balloon."

The second day's bombardment, June 26th, brought another surprise in the way of aerial mines of unheard of calibre, which were thrown in incredible numbers. The explosion of the first airship torpedo shattered by its tremendous detonation the bomb proofs and threw up a massive pillar of black earth perhaps a hundred yards. This showered the whole neighborhood with roofs, bricks, and earth. This was a regular Vesuvius eruption.

"The destructive effects of this uninterrupted throwing of the heavier mines was almost immediately visible. Then entrances to two bomb proofs were buried, and the inmates had to be removed."

A few minutes later an orderly, sent with a message to the left of a company, returned, reporting that the trench had been completely levelled. Lieut. Dambitsch, going to observe, saw as far as the eye could reach crater after crater, six feet deep, the earth between being torn up in a wild high chaos of trench timbers and wire entanglements.

Work of Months Destroyed

"The work of day and night for nine months," says the chronicler, "was destroyed in a few minutes. Report after report arrived of bomb proofs demolished by aerial torpedoes, burying the inmates. The trenches became rapidly levelled; communications between the sections was difficult. The third line were so heavily shelled that it was impossible to traverse them. An orderly sent to a captain was hours under way. On the left flank, the company trench was so obliterated that it was difficult to trace it. The only means of progress was to dash from crater to crater, fully exposed to heavy fire, while crossing the intervening ridges. Finally, we arrived after a period of intense danger, and found the left platoon of the company in the same position as the right platoon of the company. A number of men were still buried in the demolished bomb proofs. Their comrades worked for hours excavating them."

Half Buried Men

"During this work, an intrepid battalion surgeon arrived with an oxygen apparatus and stood for hours under heavy artillery fire ministering to the half buried men, and attempting to revive those asphyxiated."

"The bombardment continued without cessation, aerial torpedoes being hurled from ranges never before known to mine throwers, and the French artillery pounded every yard of ground with an intense fire of big shells."

The lieutenant describes how welcome were reinforcements arriving that night, "quite as much to assist in digging out those buried as to contribute to the defence." He was leading them through the demoralized trenches when he and his orderly were wounded by an exploding torpedo. They were sent to the hospital, thus missing the infantry attacks.

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"CITY OF VANCOUVER, B.C."

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Harold Lockwood and May Allison in a delightful two-act social drama with the American Players.

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(A rattling good comedy subject.)

SEND THE CHILDREN TO THE NICKEL'S BUMPER MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY.

Monday—MARY PAGE. Coming—"THE DIAMOND FROM THE SKY"—The \$800,000.00 Photo Play.

King's Speech to the Overseas Parliamentarians When He Received Them at Buckingham Palace

LONDON, July 11.—The following is the King's speech to the Overseas Parliamentarians whom he received at Buckingham Palace.

"It gives me much pleasure to welcome you here to-day, as I fully recognize the importance of your visit, and of others of the same kind, for they promote intercourse between the Mother Country and the Dominions. They maintain the constant interchange of ideas which help to bridge the seas which divide the Empire."

"Fifteen years ago, the Queen and I visited the great Dominions which have chosen you as their representatives. We treasure with abiding recollections the loyalty and affection evinced towards us throughout that unique and memorable tour."

"We, on our part, greet you to-day with feelings no less hearty and sincere, as representing those, who while separated by distances, are united by the strongest ties of blood and patriotism, and who hastened across the oceans to the support of the Motherland in her hour of danger. Gloriously they have fulfilled that mission, sacrificing their sons in the common cause, placing their wealth and resources at the disposal of ourselves and Allies. Never so long as the Empire lasts will the heroism which has been immortalized on the battlefields of Anzac, Ypres, Hooge, be forgotten."

South African Union

"I congratulate the members of the South African Union, who are justly proud of their successes achieved both under the leadership of General Botha, and more recently by forces comprising British regulars, South Africans, Rhodesians, East African

settlers, and native troops from my Indian Empire, in an offensive so vigorously conducted by General Smuts."

"During the past year and half, it has been my pleasure to inspect those forces from the Dominions which have partly carried out their training in this country. I can testify to the splendid quality of the troops, the spirit, loyalty and devotion of which they have given the amplest proof in face of the enemy."

"I trust your stay here will be both pleasant and instructive, and that opportunity will be given you to estimate the efforts being made to keep the navy and the army efficient both in men and equipment, and bring the war to a victorious end."

"We can learn much from each other, so it is my earnest hope that such visits as this will be both frequent and fruitful, and that they will be reciprocated by no less frequent and fruitful visits from citizens of the Mother Country to the Dominions. These will tend to consolidate the union of the Empire, which is consecrated by the memories of the common sacrifice and heroic determination to defend it."

Sir Geo. Foster's Reply

Sir George Foster replying, said:—"The services our overseas Dominions have been able to render have been able to render have been freely given, promoted by the loyalty and love for the Motherland, but also resting on the basis of the firm conviction that the gigantic struggle in which the Empire is now engaged involves issues of liberty and civilization common to all, and absolutely vital to our own well-being."

Kaiser Heartless As History Shows

Heaped Insults Upon His Father, Even After he Was dead

Those who remember the Kaiser's conduct when his grandfather died in March, 1888, are scarcely surprised at his hatred of England and his heartlessness to-day. Every sort of mental annoyance was inflicted upon his father, the luckless Emperor Frederick, who only reigned 99 days and every one was in terror when William came to see his father, lest he should suggest that he become regent.

It was when Frederick died in June of 1888, however, that Prince William showed his true character. As soon as the emperor had drawn his last breath, he doubled the guard around the new palace at Potsdam, where the dead man lay, and allowed no one to leave or enter. He then declared that all the property of those within, his mother, sisters and attendants, was confiscated for a time, and personally went through their bedrooms, bouffoirs, cupboards, desks, strong-boxes and other receptacles.

The reason for this search of his mother's home was that his father was said to have kept a detailed diary, one volume of which proved conclusively that the whole German Emperor idea, was originated by Frederick. As Bismarck had arrogated to himself all the credit for this, he had instilled into William the necessity of confiscating all the volumes for fear of state secrets being revealed.

He told his mother's officials that now he was master, and only his orders were to be obeyed. He tore up the list of persons who might be admitted to look for the last time on the dead emperor, which the Empress Frederick had given to her chamberlain, and substituted an order for the admission of high army officers. In fact, he heaped insults upon his dead father and his living mother.

Defective Work In Parliament Buildings

OTTAWA, July 18.—What looked like defective work by the original builders of the Parliament buildings was revealed by an examination made of their ruins by a party of newspaper men, which was conducted over the scene of operations by Hon. Robert Rogers, ministers of public works.

On the terrace there now lies a number of large pieces of cut stone that had been patched in an extraordinary way to overcome settling, the result, it is believed by architects, of bad masonry work. These stones when called upon to bear the strain of the building cracked and split, and they were subsequently patched.

The front walls still standing provide a number of examples of bad work. For example, the northeast corner stones upon which the tower rested had been wrenched from the brick foundations adjoining, and look as if at any time they might have collapsed under the weight of the tower.

There is no binding left in the mortar, and the walls when looked at sectionally, are seen to be falling apart. In some cases this kind of workmanship had been patched. The cross walls had not been tied.

It is stated that the building would have given way if an attempt were made to put another storey thereon. The southeast corner of the

building was built upon earth, though solid rock could have been found some eight inches deeper down. It had since cracked badly. A new stack room for the library 247 feet long, will be inserted in the face of the cliff due north of the library itself. It will have a capacity of a million books. There will be living quarters for the speaker in the new buildings. The old buildings, it stated, were put up by the Government by day labor, and took twelve years to construct. As regards the new structure, Hon. Mr. Rogers stated:—"For every thing that is being done we have the unanimous approval of the Parliamentary Committee composed of both Conservatives and Liberals."

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