

INTERESTING STORIES ABOUT THE WAR

How the Royal Flying Corps Saved Paris From the Huns

The Work of the Military Wing of the British Flying Service Has Been Remarkable During Over a Year of War One Arm in Which Britain Excels.

The work of the Royal Flying Corps has been undoubtedly one of the most remarkable features of the war in that it has influenced the course of operations in a manner very different from that in which it was expected to do. When it was first proved that aeroplanes were of military value it was foretold that they would hasten the end of a war by enabling the different commanders to watch one another's movements and so to bring about a decisive action.

What actually happened was that when the British expeditionary force found itself first opposed to the German army the commander-in-chief was warned by his air scouts that the German forces were so numerous that it was impossible for his army to oppose them with hope of success. Consequently the masterly retreat to the Marne was carried out in the absence of aircraft it is more than probable that the German forces would have been underestimated and the expeditionary force would have stood and fought till it was practically annihilated.

In such an event it seems quite possible that the whole course of the war would have been altered; that the Germans might even have occupied Paris and have established themselves firmly along the whole coast of Northern France, in which case the position of Great Britain would have been considerably more difficult owing to the greater distances over which it would have been necessary to transport further reinforcements of troops to France.

It is therefore quite reasonable to claim that the four squadrons of the Royal Flying Corps which went to France at the beginning of the war, on the 20th of August, actually saved the bulk of the original expeditionary force, and very possibly saved Paris.

During the German retreat from the Marne and took up their pre-arranged defensive positions on the Aisne the Royal Flying Corps considerably increased their losses by indicating the weak spots in the German lines of retreat at which it was advisable to strike; but on the other hand the German air scouts were able to give some warning of where the allies' attacks were to be expected, and furthermore, the excellence of the co-operation with the German artillery made the work of that arm in covering the retreat more effective. Thus, although the Royal Flying Corps obtained individual dominance over the German aviators, the actual advantages gained by the respective armies were somewhat discounted by the effect of the fine air scouting on both sides.

Later, when the new French armies and the reinforced British expeditionary force attempted to outflank the German position on the Aisne, the Royal Flying Corps made a gallant effort to clear the air of German aeroplanes so as to cover the movements of allied troops to the northwest, and although a considerable measure of success was achieved the Germans managed to extend their line as rapidly as the allied troops advanced to outflank it.

The ultimate result may be seen today in the continuous lines of entrenchments from Switzerland to the North Sea, and the efficiency of the air scouting on both sides has gone far to produce the resultant deadlock.

Over and over again, when the Germans have massed troops at a certain point preparatory for an attack on the British lines, the movements of these troops have been spotted by the Royal Flying Corps and satisfactory arrangements have been made for their reception when they have neared the British lines, and doubtless the German air scouts have been able to locate with some what similar success the massing of allied troops for like attacks in this way.

Surprise Attacks impossible. It has become practically impossible to launch anything in the nature of a surprise attack. Surprise methods of attack have been used by the Germans, such as the surprise attack on the Marne, but these methods have never been on a sufficiently large scale to make any serious impression on the allied lines; for, no matter what methods may be employed, masses of men are ultimately necessary to hold any ground that may be taken, and it now seems impossible for masses of men to be moved without the knowledge of the air scouts.

Before war broke out, and even in the early days of the war, there was a disposition among army people to regard aeroplanes purely and simply as toys, and their use as possible weapons of offense was not considered seriously. Bomb-dropping was looked upon as providing an entertaining sport for the individual aviator, but it was not considered to be of any serious military value. The only form of offense in which aeroplanes were supposed to take any part was in speed and climbing power over the enemy machines to allow the pilot to attack the enemy aeroplanes with any arms he might have at his disposal, and so remove one of the enemy's sources of information.

It is true that for a year before the war Gen. Henderson, then, as now, commanding the Royal Flying Corps, presaged the coming of big fighting aeroplanes which were to drive the enemy's air scouts from the air, or to fight their way thru the enemy aircraft and obtain the information required by sheer brute force rather than by mobility, but no serious attempt had been made up to the outbreak of war to produce aircraft specially for offensive purposes either against enemy troops or against enemy aircraft.

Duels in the Air. Individual duels in the air between pilots, generally armed with revolvers or rifles, took place quite early in the proceedings and occasionally pilots of a sporting turn of mind procured bombs and endeavored to inflict damage on the enemy's troops or supply depots, but it was not until the armies settled down to the present form of trench warfare that actual organized assaults from the air began. These have, as a rule, taken the form of endeavors to cut the enemy lines of communication, either by smashing their railway junctions or blowing up important bridges so as to hang up reinforcements or supplies which would be compelled to use these particular routes in order to reach the front. This was made clear officially after the battle of Neuve Chapelle, when a number of officers of the Royal Flying Corps were decorated either with the D. S. O. or the Military Cross for individual bravery in descending very low in order to plant bombs of large size on certain railway junctions and bridges, which were duly mentioned in official notes on the subject. It has also been officially noted on various occasions that R. F. C. pilots have destroyed German ammunition depots and have attacked where German staffs have been located.

Definite Weapon of Defense. Thus it is now evident that the aeroplane is recognized in the army as a definite weapon of offense and no doubt this use of aircraft will be considerably extended when a sufficient number of aeroplanes has been acquired. It is undoubtedly a fact that such a sufficiency could be acquired more rapidly than is at present the case, but it would mean revolutionizing many old established British ideas as to "rush" production.

When one thus reviews the work of the Royal Flying Corps one sees that it has had a very definite effect on the whole course of the war, not only by the good service it has done in actually saving the expeditionary force from what seemed certain destruction, but it has also enabled the armies which went to France at a later date to hold their own against German attacks in superior numbers. It has therefore done considerably more than this country has any right to expect from it, considering how little the encouragement was given to military aviation or to the construction of aircraft in Great Britain until the war actually began.

NEW SERUM WILL PREVENT INFECTION

Thousands of Lives May Be Saved By "Polyvalent" Serum Just Discovered.

The "Matin" announces the discovery of a new "polyvalent" serum due to the labors of MM. Leclanché and Vallée, professors at the Veterinary College at Alfort. By means of this serum cases which were regarded as hopeless have been cured here, and particularly at the Buffon Hospital. According to a military surgeon, the results obtained are almost miraculous, and soldiers who were horribly mutilated and whose wounds were so infected that their lives were being despaired of have made rapid progress, and are now on their feet, anxious to know when they will be allowed to rejoin their comrades in the firing line.

At present not more than 2000 phials a day of the new serum can be made owing to the shortage in the staff. These 2000 phials a day are being distributed as rapidly as possible to the sanitary service.

Up to the present it has only been possible to use the "polyvalent" serum in the hospitals at the base. When it can be applied as a preventive in the firing line, like the anti-tetanic serum, thousands of additional human lives will be saved.

Titled Lorry Drivers—Hundreds of Women Learning Motoring.

BY W. B. THOMPSON.

There are one hundred women motor drivers in the British Women's Ambulance Reserve at the moment, and they are all kept busy with hospital and transport work.

"We would like to have about five hundred women," said the adjutant of the Reserve Ambulance Corps, "and one day, she sat at her desk in her neat khaki uniform, with its touches of bright green, and her round face lit up with a smile."

"Our recruits have to be medically examined before they can become members of the corps," continued the adjutant, "and we have many of them taught to drive motors and to understand the mechanism of a car, and they can take their choice as to other duties—orderly work, dispensing home nursing, canteen work, etc."

"No woman is allowed to drive unaided soldiers in and from hospitals unless she has a knowledge of first aid and nursing, in case her services should be suddenly required."

"At first the hospitals accepted our pitiable little army of women as a novelty, but now we have no difficulty whatever, and the Tommies themselves are most appreciative and delighted."

The members of the Women's Ambulance Reserve can be between the ages of eighteen and fifty. When they pass the medical examination and have donned the uniform, they must decide upon what form of emergency war work they are to do, and must take up their duties, which include one regular military drill each week.

"Some of them are ladies of title, who want to help in war work. Others are ladies who want to replace their own chauffeurs; and others are anxious to take men's jobs as lorry and delivery-car drivers. And, of course, the members of the Women's Ambulance Reserve."

HOW FAT FOLKS MAY BECOME THIN

By Elizabeth Thomas.

Perhaps you are suddenly becoming stout, or it may be that you have been putting on weight for years. In either case the cause is the same—the same oxygen-carrying power of the blood. This trouble occurs in adults of both sexes and all ages, but it may be overcome easily and without any of the privations that most people imagine necessary to reduce their weight.

Simply go to your druggist and get some oil of orlene capsules. Take one after each meal and one before going to bed. Weigh yourself so as to know just how fast you are losing weight. Wonderful results have been accomplished by this inexpensive recipe, but be sure to get the genuine oil of orlene in capsule form. It is sold only in original sealed packages. Any large druggist can supply you, or a large size box will be sent on receipt of \$1.00. Address, D. J. Little Drug Co., Box 1240 Montreal, Can.

How Ferdinand of Bulgaria Became "Bismark of Balkans"

Placed Upon Almost Hopelessly Shattered Throne, He Has Intrigued and Placed His Country on Sound Footing—Plotting for Gain in This War.

(BY CARL GABE.)

Behind the scenes of Balkan politics matters are moving. But in what direction? What policies, what decisions will emerge from the pressure and counter-pressure of the belligerent powers in that region of passionate hates and fiercely conflicting aims?

The answer lies in Bulgaria. There, in Sofia, is the master-key to the whole tangled problem. And if in Sofia, then also in Czar Ferdinand's hands. All Europe is brusquely courting him. All Europe realizes that it rests with him to speak the decisive word. The chief hero of the Balkan revolution of 1912, the chief victim of its miserable sequel in 1913, "the lesser czar" and himself today beyond all hope and prevision, the pivot of a drama that transcends by far anything that even his convulsive and theatrical career has ever known.

Three years ago all the world was pondering a problem that at once invited speculation and eluded it. Whose brain conceived the Balkan League? Who was it that saw that the hour had struck, that the general European idea of the fighting strength of Turkey was mistaken, and that with a determined and united push, the Ottoman power could be toppled over? Who was the unknown Bismark of the Balkans?

Whose diplomacy was it that composed the intricate jealousies and feuds that had hitherto kept Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, and Greece apart, and had made the very notion of a Balkan federation for any purpose, warlike or peaceful, seem the latest of dreams? And whose judgment was it that so nicely and accurately calculated the impotence of Europe in the face of a bold front and the accomplished fact?

Our grandchildren may be better able to answer these questions than we are today. But already the opinion has crystallized into something like conviction that Ferdinand was the man who spun the webs and set the ball rolling, and that, so far as the four-cornered onslaught on the Turks was conceived, designed, completed, and launched by a single mind and a single will, that mind and will are to be looked for under the crown of Bulgaria's king.

He Grasped at Too Much And Lost Nearly All

We all remember how the Bulgarians fought and how they triumphed; with what dash and organizing power, with what spirit and energy of hardihood, discipline, self-sacrifice, and consuming patriotism. And we all remember the tragic aftermath; how, in a fatal moment Ferdinand, grasping

at too much, lost nearly everything; how the league he had created well-nigh destroyed him; how his crowning success proved to be his undoing, and how, at the sword's point he was forced to sign a bitter and humiliating peace.

Small wonder he now wants to make sure of his ground before taking a single step. Small wonder that, allured on the one hand by the chance to retrieve all and more than all he was compelled to surrender, and on the other by the disastrous consequences of one false move, he hesitates, watches, waits, plays off one group of powers against the other, and slowly mines his way to the perfect bargain.

It is a game he loves. The genius for intrigue is in his Czebov blood. His mother, the Princess Clementine, the daughter of Louis Philippe, and with all her father's shrewdness, and a good deal more charm and generosity than he ever possessed, dedicated her son almost from boyhood to the study of statecraft. She was determined that her youngest and best-loved boy should be something more than one of the hapless group of unemployed highnesses and that he should lead a full life as a mere officer, and that he should be a king. To that end she trained him with a woman's faith in the thousand-to-one chance.

Certainly nothing in the early eighties could have seemed more unlikely than that Ferdinand would ever be called upon to show his capacity for rulership. There were no signs of a budding monarch. Europe seemed imperturbably tranquil. But suddenly Alexander, Prince of Bulgaria, was kidnapped, the Principality was left without a ruler, Europe was scoured for a successor, and Ferdinand's chances had come. He offered himself for what was at the time the most thankless task in the world of diplomacy, and journeying in secret down the Danube entered Sofia in August, 1887, in his twenty-sixth year.

His Throne Was Saved By Lord Salisbury

No one would have valued his crown at six months' purchase. He had all Europe against him; Bulgaria was in a state of chaos; and his real ruler was Stambouloff, the rough, the curt, and renegade son of an innkeeper, the precise opposite of the cultured, half-Austrian, half-Serbian aristocrat, with his elaborate perfumed manners, who had mounted the throne. But the Bulgarians had accepted him as their prince, and for one power, Great Britain, that was enough. Lord Salisbury warned all whom it might concern that Bulgaria was not

MEN OF NEW ARMY LEARN TO COOK IN HUNDRED SCHOOLS

Matter of Supplying Chefs for New Battalion Is Heavy Problem in London.

London has become the world's greatest cooking university. More than 100 London County Council schools and similar institutions are its colleges. Its undergraduates are men of the new army, who have come up from the camps at Aldershot and other training centres throughout the country, and its tutors and lecturers are the women experts in domestic economy who teach the girls in the London elementary schools the theory and practice of plain cooking.

Has Developed the Country and Army

No Balkan state, indeed, has so fully justified the vision of liberation from the Ottoman yoke. Under Ferdinand's auspices, and very largely owing to his inspiration and pre-eminence, his power of hard and intelligent work, railways and schools have covered Bulgaria, bringing with them great prosperity, and the army is the admiration of the world.

Here clearly is no do-nothing king, but one with the real stuff of leadership in him. And Ferdinand, remember, is not yet fifty-five. High as he has climbed, he may climb higher still. The simple and democratic peasants over whom he rules are grateful, as they well might be, for what he has achieved, submit themselves to his guidance, and in the past two years, have yielded to him the supreme tribute of their confidence by clinging to him thru a dark and difficult hour.

At once an artist and a grand seigneur, consummately skilled in the study of human nature, especially on its weaker side, with gifts of ingenuity that he rarely designs to exercise, a botanist and a bird-stuffer by inclination, a disciple of Machiavelli by trade, King Ferdinand stands out as one of the most gifted and ambitious figures on the near eastern stage.

New Legs From Old Bank Notes

Makers of artificial limbs have unhappily never been so busy as during the past year. Hospitals all over Europe are crying out for legs and arms by the thousands. Many of these artificial limbs are, for the sake of lightness, made from a sort of papier-mache. But it will astonish many to be told how in Paris some of the most famous makers get their material. They get it from the Bank of France. When the stock of old and withdrawn bank notes gets sufficient they are brought into a special room, and before high functionaries of the bank they are made into an indistinguishable mass, which is sold to the orthopedists. So when one of the mutilated heroes limps along he may truly say that his leg represents a fortune.

Curfew Must Not Ring To-night

CURFEW MUST NOT RING TONIGHT was written by Rose Hartwick Thorpe 45 years ago, and in the same thrilling vein she has just written "Mothers of Men," an eloquent song of peace with chorus. Set to a piano accompaniment full of pathos and melody. Sheet music. Sent this way, publisher, 2900 Fifth Street, San Diego, California.

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