

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 opposed to the German army the commander-in-chief was warned by his air scouts that the German forces were so enormous 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 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.

Individual duels in the air between pilots, generally armed with revolvers or rifles, took place quite early in the proceedings and occasionally pilots of opposing sides were seen to exchange bombs and endeavor to inflict damage on the enemy's troops or supply depots, but it was not until the arrival of the Royal Flying Corps that 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, which were reinforced by supplies which would be compelled to use these particular areas in which an important action was going on.

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 mentioned on various occasions that E. F. C. pilots have destroyed German ammunition depots and have attacked towns 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 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 German attacks in superior numbers, 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 encouragement has been given to military aviation or to the construction of aircraft in Great Britain until the war actually began.

It has become practically impossible to launch anything in the nature of a surprise attack, surprise meth-

ods of attack have been used by the Germans, such as poison gas and liquid fire, but these methods have never been on a sufficiently large scale to make any serious impressions 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 scouts, 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 when machines had sufficient excess 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, envisaged 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 attempts had been made up to the outbreak of war to produce aircraft specifically for offensive purposes either against enemy troops or against enemy aircraft.

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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. Leclainche and Valle, 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 regarded as hopeless have been cured here, and particularly at the Buffon Hospital.

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 field, like the anti-tetanic serum, thousands of additional human lives will be saved.

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, "who would sit at her desk in her neat khaki uniform, with its touches of bright green, and her round felt hat turned up at one side."

"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 wounded soldiers to 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 services rather doubtfully, but now we have no difficulty whatever, and Tommies themselves are most appreciative of our work."

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 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 poets' sorry 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—lack of oxygen-carrying power of the blood. This trouble occurs in adults of both sexes and all ages, but it may be overcome very 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 orleans 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 orleans 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 "Bismarck 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 merge 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 "Bismarck of the Balkans" whose diplomacy was it that composed the intricate web of the Balkan League, and had made the very notion of a Balkan federation for any purpose, warlike or peaceful, seem the ideal of dreams?

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 web 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 the Bulgarians had accepted of 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

to be interfered with in settling her own affairs in her own way. His solitary voice saved the prince, and possibly also the peace of Europe—against all reason and probability Ferdinand has reigned ever since. Pretty nearly everything on which his heart was set he has achieved in the teeth of incredible obstacles. He had begun as an unrecognized prince; he is today a full-fledged king. He began as a mere figurehead and puppet under Stambouloff's sway; for twenty years and more he has been the absolute ruler of the state. He found a hostile Russia and he forced its approbation. He found Bulgaria the political shuttlecock of the near east; he won for her, if for only a moment, the undoubted primacy of the Balkans. He found for her a vassal and tributary principality; he has raised her to the dignity of a sovereign and independent state. He found her in a condition of partial subjection to the Turks; he not only freed her, but in 1912 he vanquished the Turks in battle.

Has Developed the Country and Army

No Balkan state, indeed, has so actively justified the vision of liberation from the Ottoman yoke. Under Ferdinand's auspices, and very largely owing to his inspiration and prodding, the Balkan states 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 presents 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 ingratiating and rarely designs to expose, 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 this 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 sufficiently large 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.

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 cookery 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 thruout 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.

These women—for the schools are now on holiday—ought to be enjoying their own holidays, but they have sacrificed a part of it in order to teach the army how to get something fit to eat. The soldiers are living in colleges. Each class is billeted in the school in which it is receiving instruction, and had the run of the playground for purposes of sport, which here, as elsewhere, forms so important a part of the national system of education.

The culinary equipment of the council schools was never intended for the demonstration of military cooking. The kitchen class-rooms have not Aldershot ovens or kitchen wagons designed for the preparation of meals in the mass; they are provided only with the small utensils such as girls who attend them would have to use in their homes. But the same principles of good cooking are applied in large or small, and the first and chief of them is simplicity.

So the soldier who learns how to roast, boil, or stew meat and vegetables with household appliances in family style knows pretty well how they should be cooked for a battalion. The men who were seen undergoing their course of instruction were taking the greatest interest in it.

Curfew Must Not Ring To-night

CURFEW MUST NOT RING TONIGHT was written by Rose Hartwick Thorpe 48 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 upon receipt of 50 cents per copy. W. C. Postpaid, 2900 Fifth Street, San Diego, California.

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Amongst people of refinement it has become a custom to have glass tableware with Sterling Silver Initial and Rim. The cost of such work is apt to be prohibitive, but readers may now secure a most beautiful set of such glasses at merely nominal cost. While this supply lasts six half-pint tumblers, each decorated with your own Initial and Rim in Sterling Silver, can be obtained by readers for expense of handling from

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WOMEN readers of this paper will not need persuasion to see the unusual value of this new ware. The tumblers are of the finest thin blown glass, fire-polished and decorated with a very dainty design. Trimmed in sterling silver rim, with your own Initial on each piece. Beautiful, valuable, practical and ornamental. Never before offered for sale.



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