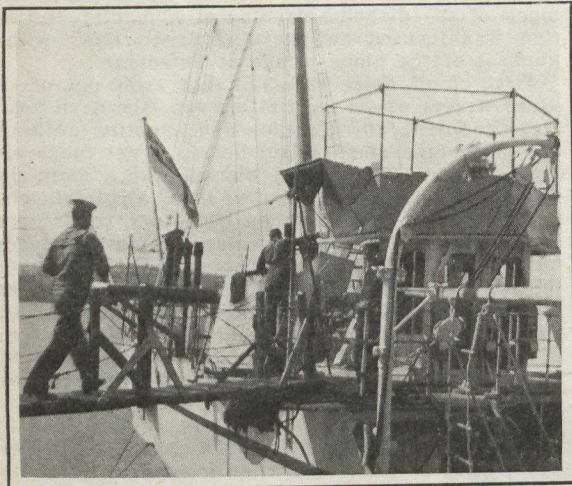


Our Pacific Coast in War Time

By BONNYCASTLE DALE

TO allay any fears that may exist among property owners on the Coast, let me tell you of conditions there, as much as a man might fairly do so in time of war.

The idea is prevalent that we are totally defenceless there—true we have but the Rainbow; by this time you all know its whereabouts; the Algerine and the Shearwater, one second-class cruiser and two old-time gunboats, with seven thousand miles of sinuous coast line to defend. But remember, there



Seaman carrying orders aboard the Algerine, the British patrol boat rescued by the Rainbow. Her crew will be transferred to the Niobe.

is only one way into the inside waters of the Gulf of Georgia, the gulf that separates the great Island of Vancouver, on which the capital city of Victoria sits, and its sister groups of smaller islands, from the mainland. That way is through the Straits of Juan de Fuca, straits 100 miles long that separate the U. S. from Canada and that taper to 12 miles in width nearly opposite Victoria, or really opposite Esquimalt, the British naval station on the Pacific. Never mind if it is abandoned, the magnificent modern cannon on their disappearing mounts were

not removed and they command the Straits. Even if they did not, it is a question if that international waterway could be traversed by hostile ships of war bent on attacking the North Coast of America without seriously displeasing the United States, as she has various interests scattered all about here.

There is hardly a man in B. C. that can as much as point out the emplacement of this great battery of up-to-date cannon that are hidden in the huge rocks that form the seaworn front of the island. A few officers, some Royal Engineers, now in England, and the administration are all that know just how well we are defended. Even the sappers and miners and jackies that were in Esquimalt when the big guns were placed in position were all hurried off to England with only broken and imperfect knowledge of the perfected plans.

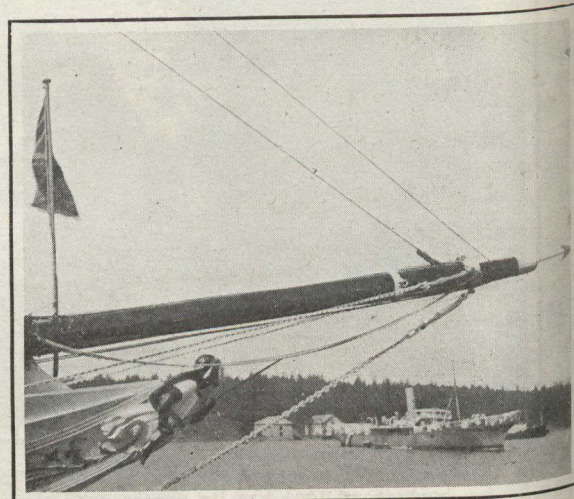
We have often wandered along these rude shores mentally measuring just what chance an attacking fleet would have. The international line is such a devious thing that the enemy would be constantly inside the three-mile line if once it passed Victoria and tried to steam across to Vancouver. No fleet that ever sailed the seas could approach to attack our southern neighbour's navy yard, about 100 miles south of Victoria. Personally, I have spent months wandering about amid the great U. S. forts and navy yard, constantly impressed with the liberty that was granted me to see and examine everything. So complete was the confidence shown me that never once did our cameras click on anything that might show a future enemy the position of cannon or mortar or fort. The long, sinuous channel called Puget Sound is mined from Canadian water clear to the navy yard at Bremerton.

Another thing, there are few if any German colonists along Vancouver Island shores or the shores of Puget Sound. Danes, Icelanders, Swedes there are in numbers. With these exceptions B. C. is a truly Scotch, English, Irish community, in the order named, with a good sprinkling of native-born and Eastern Canadians, a few East Indians, many Chinese and Japs, and a few thousand Indians.

I would hate to be a foreign pilot on that coast with the lights of our marine service extinguished. I have not overlooked the northern entrance to the

Gulf of Georgia, but the passes are so narrow that we could mine them against the navies of the world. Again, is it not very likely that as soon as the China fleet attend to the few German cruisers on the Eastern station some of the ships will come to the defence of the Pacific Coast?

Vancouver can easily be defended as the entrance is narrow from the Gulf. And the spirit that animates the people! I have heard it remarked by tourists that they are more loyal than Londoners. Again, we have never had rumours that the German



The bow of the Algerine; in the distance a cable ship at anchor.

spy was in our midst. In fact, all over Canada we esteem the German as a good fellow-citizen, but good or ill he is a rarity on the Coast.

With two transcontinentals pouring the host of volunteers from the prairies, with the large bodies of troops that are being raised in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster, and the two new submarines purchased by the foresight of Sir Richard McBride, we are certain no foreign foe will find a lodgment on that glorious coast.

The War Calendar

August 18th.—The abandonment of Brussels by the Belgians was followed by a swift march on the part of the Germans through Huy and Jodoigne, straight to Brussels. Apparently the Allies intend to offer no opposition to the advance of the Belgians through Central Belgium, but rather to await a German attack on the entrenched positions to the North and South. Apparently also the Allies are not anxious for a decisive battle in Belgium until the French army shall have reached Northern Lorraine and are able to threaten the communications of the main German army in Belgium.

The Kaiser, accompanied by his general staff, is reported to have gone to Mainz, from which he will personally direct the campaign.

The Greek army and navy have been mobilized and there are signs of possible hostilities between Greece and Turkey.

The Canadian Parliament met in extraordinary session to-day.

It was officially announced that the Russian forces had crossed the German frontier in six places.

A despatch from Premier Pasich of Serbia announces that an Austrian army was trapped in the Sabatz Mountains and lost 15,000 men.

August 19th.—France issues an official statement that Saarburgh has been captured. Apparently the French forces have pushed forward from Nancy into Lorraine.

There are rumours that Brussels has fallen.

Patriotic speeches were made in the Canadian House of Commons and Parliament showed a united spirit.

August 20th.—The Germans have occupied Tirlemont, Diest and Brussels.

France re-occupied Mulhausen, after three days' fighting. Another French army is reported to be within nineteen miles of Metz.

The Canadian Minister of Finance announced new excise and custom duties on liquor, tobacco, coffee, sugar and fruit extracts.

August 21st.—The Germans are reported within a few miles of Ostend. King Albert and his staff are in Antwerp.

Russia reports that an army of 500,000 men are now in Germany.

Thirty millions of Canada's war vote of fifty millions will be spent on military defence and six millions on naval service. This will cover expenses only to March 31st, 1915.

August 22nd.—The Germans have countered against the French in Lorraine, and driven them back. Luneville, ten miles within the French border, is reported to be occupied by the Germans.

General Pau, a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war, is now in command of the larger French army in Alsace and is having a greater success.

The Canadian Parliament adjourned after passing all the necessary war legislation.

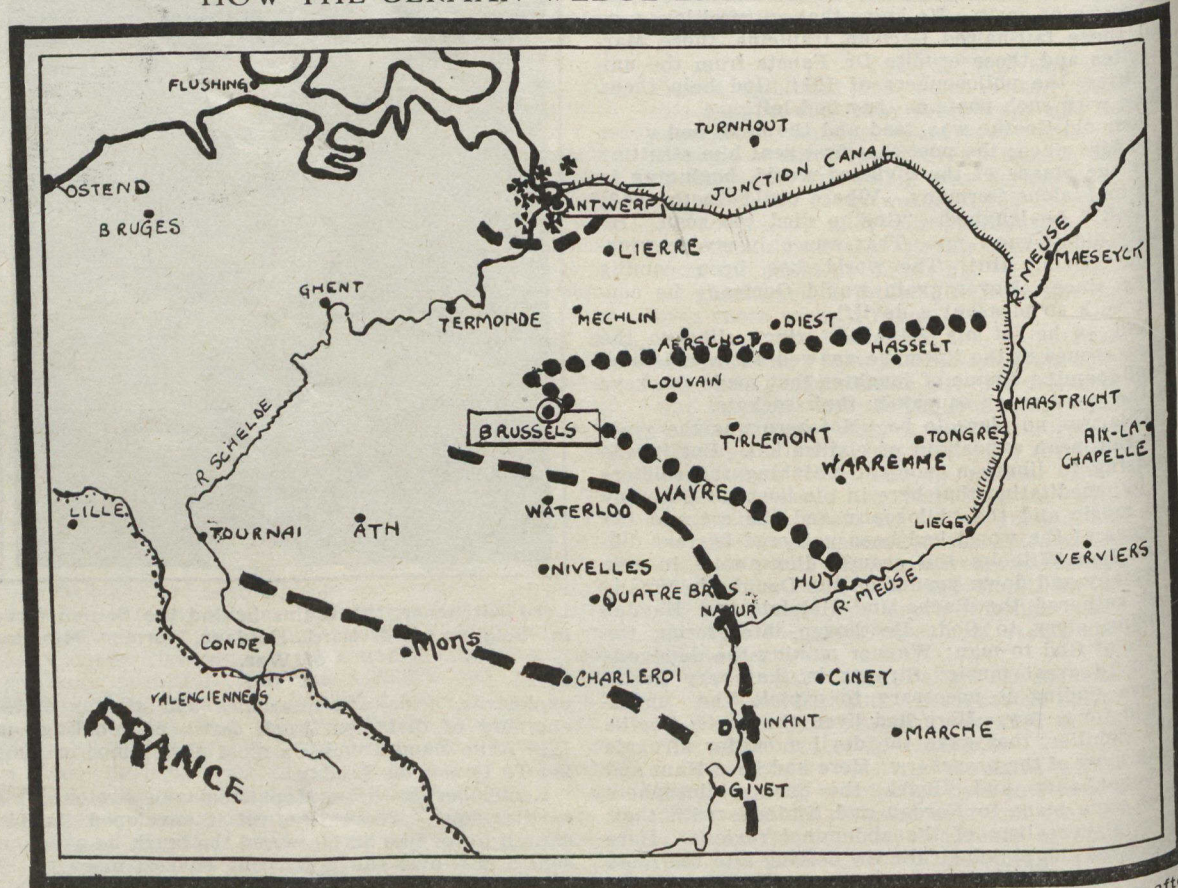
August 23rd.—Japan's notice to Germany expired to-day, and Japan formally declared war on Ger-

many. It is estimated that it will take three months to reduce the forts in Kiau-Chau.

August 24.—Belgium Port of Namur taken by Germans.

French and British retire at Neufchateau. French again evacuate Alsace and Lorraine. Fighting continues in the neighbourhood of Mons.

HOW THE GERMAN WEDGE ENTERED BELGIUM



This map, revised according to the information received up to Monday last, shows the German troops in a big wedge forcing themselves through Belgium to the North Sea. The chief points on the map are as follows:

ANTWERP—The present capital. Government moved here from Brussels. It has several forts.

BRUSSELS—Now occupied by Germans. Belgians evacuated their old capital on Thursday, August 20.

LIEGE—Scene of the fiercest battle so far. Now occupied by Germans.

LOUVAIN—Now in possession of German troops after heroic resistance by Belgians on August 20.

AERSCHOT—Seven out of 288 Belgians lived to tell of heroic fight here against Germans.

DIEST—Probably in possession of Germans.

HUY—Here a host of Germans crossed the Meuse.

NAMUR—An original line of German advance to Paris. Still held by Belgians. Fortified.

GIVET—On original route of German advance on Paris.

MONS—Where British troops first met Germans in force.