

THE COURIER

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Monday, October 25, 1915.

The Situation.

The British submarines continue their good work in the Baltic. The sinking of a German armored cruiser is their latest achievement, and it is evident that in this sea also John Bull is fast achieving a mastery.

There is much news of a conflicting nature in connection with the Balkans. One unconfirmed statement is that both Greece and Roumania, in answer to the Allies, have stated that in order to join with them they would require the assurance of enough troops to avoid in their case such a devastation as that which has occurred in Belgium. The Serbians would seem to be in a critical position, although still fighting bravely.

The Italian official reports show excellent progress, and Paris reports another notable success in the Champagne district.

A statement elsewhere in this issue from a high authority representing the views of the Russian staff again emphasizes the splendid manner in which the future is faced. The fact is laid stress on that the Austro-Germans have failed to either destroy or even disorganize the troops of the Czar, and their morale and determination still continues to be excellent.

Over the Courier's leased wire there comes, via returned passengers to New York, a more detailed story regarding the results of the last zeppelin raid on London than has hitherto appeared. There is no need to dwell upon the damnable nature of such attacks, which have absolutely no military value. Only a Hun would think of them. The Kaiserites do not even yet realize the temper or the make-up of the British people when they hope by such dastardly means to either scare or awe them. To the direct contrary, it is the universal testimony that the raids are merely looked upon with supreme contempt and simply enhance the existing determination to bring Germany to her knees.

Britain the Backbone.

The following editorial from the Chicago Post is well worthy of reproduction:

"People who measure the war by battles and ground gained frequently ask, 'What is England doing?' The tone of the question implies that in their belief England is shrinking her part in the big job that the allies have on hand."

"But consider a moment what would be the situation if Great Britain were to withdraw from the struggle."

"The leaving of some sixty miles of front in the west to be cared for by the French, and the evacuation of the Gallipoli peninsula, although serious enough, would be but minor results."

"With England out of the war the German navy would be in control of the seas. Her blockaded ports would be open to the world's commerce, whereas, in all probability, the ports of France would be closed and her coast bombarded. German warships would be off the coast of Italy and their shells exploding in Rome and Venice. American munition manufacturers would be selling guns and shells to the Teutons instead of to the allies."

"The 2,000,000 or more soldiers that England has in reserve would no longer be an asset on which the allies could count."

"France and Russia would be compelled to raise loans at high rates, of interest in neutral markets instead of being financed by advances from London at the rate of over \$2,000,000,000 a year."

"If Great Britain were to quit now, within six weeks Germany would be dictating terms of peace. England is the backbone of the allies, and nobody knows it better than Germany."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The United States ambassador did all that he could in the case of Miss Cavell, but the Kaiserites in this, as in other matters, demonstrated that they do not give a flip for Uncle Sam.

The Kaiser has bestowed the Iron Cross upon King Ferdinand of Bulgaria. 'Tain't enough! The grossest betrayer of modern times should have been given at least fifty of 'em.

Hespler for the Red Cross fund gave \$1.17 per head of population. As this came after a machine gun fund and other activities, the residents of that place are certainly entitled to three cheers and a tiger.

Recruiting in the Old Land is now taking place with such a marked upward trend that a resort to conscription may after all be avoided. There are still very many, however, who will incline to the belief that the latter is the more equitable plan.

from the enemy. We went into the trenches for seven days. The Germans couldn't understand us because we did not fire a shot for two days, and they kept shouting to see what was the matter with us. They did not know we were Canadians as we relieved the Middlesex brigade that had been there four months. They were a fine bunch of boys, gave us a lot of grub and tobacco, which came in handy. But when we did start you can just believe me the Germans knew about it and were soon aware that they had the 19th Battalion in front of them.

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One bomb fell, hitting him squarely on the head before it exploded.

Adired R. Urion, the principal counsel for Chicago's Meat Packers, has been in London in an effort to gain the release of the vast quantity of meat that has been seized by the British and condemned in prize court proceedings. As a passionate lover of the British government and the packers, but told of watching the Zeppelin raids from his apartment in Queen Anne's Mansions. There were two of them at first, but they presently divided and only one reached the heart of London. The night was absolutely clear and in the light of the moon I saw the Zeppelin drop four bombs.

"The incendiary bombs leave a purple trail in the sky. The others leave nothing to indicate their path. One of the high explosive bombs fell on the Bell public house, which was at the corner of Catherine street and the Strand. Thirty persons were killed when the bomb exploded and the house was demolished. Another passenger on board the St. Paul was Edward Shearson, the New York banker, who declared that London did not realize the financial aid which this war was plunging the world into."

"I believe and after careful study," he said, "that this war will last another eighteen months. When peace comes, if it comes, then, the nations which have been playing at suicide will have spent no less than three hundred billion dollars. Where will it come from? Who will make it up? I'm sure I do not know, and I do not think the people of Europe know either."

"The English are playing a wonderful part in the war. They have raised an army of 3,000,000 men. One third of this army is in France, 350,000 are in the campaign against the Dardanelles and the remainder are in England. The navy is invincible."

While the protectors of London do not seem able to keep the Zeppelins from flying over the city, the people in the country districts are never at a loss for ample warning against the approach of these destroyers, according to Mrs. M. C. Jones, of New York, who was a passenger.

Mrs. Jones had been staying in Hertfordshire, a rolling country where the pheasants are plentiful and tame. They are now elevated to a station high above the usual plane of a game bird, they can sense a Zeppelin fully half an hour before human ingenuity can detect one.

"I do not know how to account for their power," she said, "but only a few nights before I left, a servant came running into our house and cried out that the pheasants were drumming, and half an hour later we looked out to see the Zeppelins overhead."

Another passenger on board the St. Paul was Dr. J. Elliott Royer, of Kansas City, Mo., who is a specialist. Dr. Royer said he was studying in Berlin when the war began and that he had proceeded as far as London, when he was asked to assist in the work of the King George and National Hospital. He has been there ever since. "At this hospital," he said, "the deaf, the dumb and the blind, who have been injured by the concussion of high explosive shells are treated. While the cases are pitiful, it is surprising that they yield to treatment, and most of them do so, deaf or blinded can be cured in about three months."

Other passengers, including Dr. D. B. Sternberg, of Boston, one of the Harvard Red Cross; S. Woodfull Millard, secretary to the Honorable R. O. Marmber, M.P.; Waldo A. Ross, a Sioux Falls, S.D., aviator, who has been with the English flying corps at Hendon and Lady De Bathe, formerly Lillian Langtry, an actress, gave details of the raid. They differed little from the other accounts.

Captain S. C. Lima and Thomas Fernandez of the Republic of Portugal engineer corps, also were among the arrivals. They came here to purchase motor trucks, Lima explaining "we must be prepared even if we are neutral."

H. C. Hoover, head of the Belgian relief committee, and Sir Charles Ross of Ottawa, Canada, also were included in the passenger list.

NINETEETH BATTALION

(Continued from Page 1)

I don't allow him to take any risks. Had a letter from his mother asking me to look after him. He fetters all ammunition up from the reserve trenches and keeps the men supplied."

SECOND LETTER, SEPT. 30. We had a rough time marching through France. Of course, I am not allowed to tell you where we ended or the how we marched through, but we had to march 55 or 50 miles before we got to the trenches, and thankful we were when we got there.

EIGHTY YARDS FROM ENEMY. We hold the trenches in the most advanced position on the western front. The trenches our company is in are only about eighty yards away

from the enemy. We went into the trenches for seven days. The Germans couldn't understand us because we did not fire a shot for two days, and they kept shouting to see what was the matter with us. They did not know we were Canadians as we relieved the Middlesex brigade that had been there four months. They were a fine bunch of boys, gave us a lot of grub and tobacco, which came in handy. But when we did start you can just believe me the Germans knew about it and were soon aware that they had the 19th Battalion in front of them.

ONLY ONE MAN HURT.

We had no one killed all the time we were in the trenches. I am sorry to say I had one man wounded by shrapnel. A shell burst right over our bay in the trenches. They are divided into bays and my platoon has to hold six bays. I was walking from one to the other to see that my men were safe as the Germans were shelling us with their big guns when I was speaking to him and he was hit with a close shave, but they did not get me.

VERY LITTLE SLEEP.

I like trench work. Of course I do not get much sleep, only about four hours in seven days. It is part of my duty to go out at night to visit the trenches and see how they are. By the time I have gone one hour it is time to start another. I have to draw all food, we call rations to see that every man gets his share. We were to be here six days, but have just got orders to go into the trenches again to-night after three days' rest. Rat is tough, but we are all happy and ready to take our share of the fighting.

WASHING UP.

You would have laughed to see us when we came out of the trenches. I had been raining and we were covered from head to foot with mud. The trenches are awful when it rains. I took my platoon down to a village for baths, about five miles behind the firing line. Now, don't you think we did not have a good time? We were like a lot of children having their Saturday night bath.

SAW BRANTFORD OFFICERS.

I don't think I shall be able to sleep indoors again. I shall dig a hole in the garden and live the simple life. We had Col. Colquhoun, Capt. Towers, Capt. Miller and Major Jones over to see us as they are only four miles away, and we intended going over to see them, but this new order has put a stop to it.

THE THIRD LETTER DATED OCTOBER 6TH.

Am still in the trenches and expect to be moved to another part of the line to-morrow, so suppose it is up with our rest for this time. Just had a wash and a shave and never felt better in my life.

SOME CLASSY COAT COLLAR.

We certainly do have luck. About 5.30 this morning I was giving orders to one of my Lance-Corporals named Bacon when he was struck in the back of the neck by a bullet. He had his coat collar rolled up as it was cold. First thing he shouted out, "Who hit me in the neck?" We looked around and found the cause of it. The bullet was quite hot when he picked it up.

ORDERED TO MOVE.

Sergeant Speechley concluded this letter on the 17th, next day, just before they were to move to their new quarters. They had been under a heavy bombardment, the Germans firing many big shells but doing little damage. The sergeant states he still is "in the pink" and ready for the enemy.

Mr. P. Stohill, Eagle Place, is in receipt of the following letter:

Oct. 3, 1915. I have been a very long time writing you, but now I happen to have a few spare moments and so will utilize them to the best of my ability by writing you.

Well, I must tell you first. I am in the best of health and spirits also, although by the time you receive this I may be in France or some place else, anyway that's what I tell myself, and I am ready to go and do my bit with the rest, and believe me, they will need us now and every available man. I should say this war is not going to end so quickly as was thought. But this is not telling you of myself, is it? No, to doubt you will have heard of my promotion to Sergeant, also Fred Day, he's pay sergeant too, quite a lot of Brantford boys have done excellently by gaining promotion. I happened to be the first one and felt honored by being so, but believe me, it means work and lots of it and responsibility too, still our shoulders are broad enough, I guess. Well, when we landed at Plymouth on June 28th, mostly all the Brantford and Hamilton boys were told off as fatigue party to unload the boat and load the train. We started at 5 in the morning and got through about five in the afternoon. The rest of the Battalion had gone ahead in the morning. At 5.30 we embarked in the train and landed at Shoreham at 10.35 next morning. You can imagine eight of us in a carriage (corridor) and our kits too for 10 hours; comfortable, well, enough said. When we got off the train we had about two miles to walk to the camp, and they had tea and bread and butter waiting for us, a nice meal after 24 hours, eh? Anyway after that we were put into tents, and now here is why I'll never forget our first day in England. About 9 a.m. it started to rain, and believe me it did rain, we were absolutely flooded out, the water was over our shoe tops and we were paddling in it, digging trenches to let the water away, and that's the kind of a ground we had to sleep on that night, but none of us were any the worse. We have had just as bad times, getting wet through. It's surprising, the spirit of the boys, though. We were out to the trenches, 4 miles from camp, and it rained hard and every inch of us were wet through, and the next day we were to be inspected by the King, and the sun came out lovely next day, and so our clothes dried on us; nothing to do but get on with the work, and we were right on the job and eager to

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before he received aid, writes to Sergt. Major Hart as follows: No. 11344, Corp. J. Dockray, No. 5 Coy 12th Battalion St. Martin's, Shorncliffe, Kent, England.

Dear Art—I received your letter the other day and was very pleased to see that you were well. I might say that I am feeling good, but I am unit for active service so they have put me on the permanent staff here. They have given me another stripe to keep me quiet. I don't think I shall be long before I will get the other one. Well Art I am very pleased to see that they have accepted you at last. It must have been very hard for you to see to good reception when he got to Brantford. Bert West is taking his discharge in England, so I don't think you will see him again.

I was over to see S. M. Oxtoby and Billy Bolt last week and I saw a lot of the other boys from home. They are all looking well. I think that is about all I can say this time.

From your old friend, JIM.

P. S.—Remember me to all my old friends, Sam Burnley, Bob McLean and all the others in the Mess.

Cadet corps for the boys attending all elementary schools in the county, into which they would be drafted immediately after they reached the school-leaving age are to be provided by the Essex Education Committee.

It is stated that the head teachers and school managers will co-operate on local committees. The boys will be kept in training until they reach the age of 18, and will then be ready and fit for service with the colors. The scheme is to be worked with the assistance of the Territorial Association.

English farmers must look to the women of rural communities to fill the places of farm laborers who are kept in the trenches. Lord Selborne, president of the British Board of Agriculture, recently told the Norfolk chamber of commerce at Harwich. Farmers must be prepared to pay these women fair wages, he added. Lord Selborne said Kitchener had decided to use skilled labor found on British farms for special duty.

Five New York city ambulances horses were pensioned off and sent to the farm for inebriates at Warwick.

Ernest Stout, aged 40, Chicago reporter, in five years has studied law while on street car trips and has passed.

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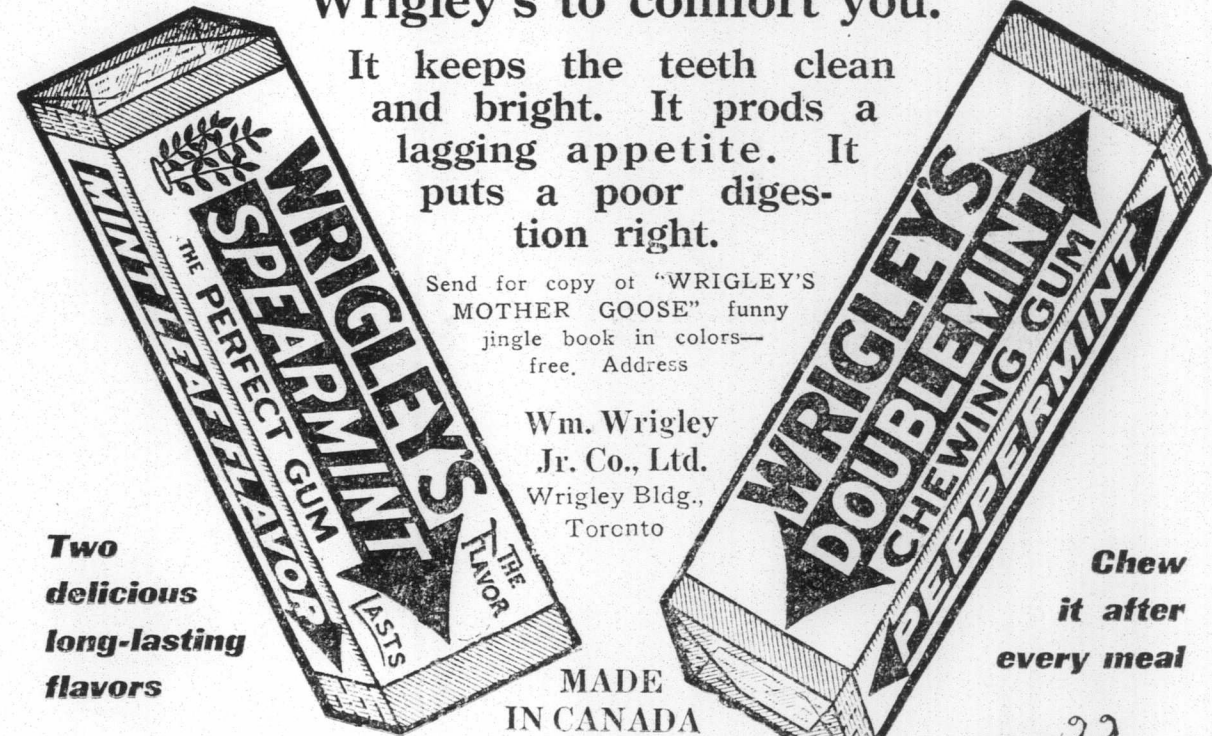


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SCHOOL COLLECTION At Bell View school the box for the Red Cross is

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FROM CONCUSSION.

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