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ZEPPELIN RAIDER DESCRIBES ATTACKS ON LONDON

Claims Each Raid is Successful and That Zeppelins Accomplish Their Object—But the Story Comes From Berlin

BERLIN Oct. 15.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Lieutenant Peterson, German navy, one of the few German officers who have repeatedly visited London since the outbreak of the war, is in Berlin, where a correspondent of the Associated Press had an opportunity to have a conversation with him upon his impressions of the British metropolis.

"Mr. Balfour says the destructive effect of the air raids has been almost insignificant from a military point of view and that we are unable to see what we accomplish," remarked the Zeppelin commander. "We see and know better. When we see a big factory under us collapse after an explosive bomb has been dropped upon it or when we drop a fire bomb upon the London docks or adjoining store houses and see them burst into bright flames, we know we are accomplishing something."

"We cruise normally at great heights, but with good glasses we can see things very plainly. In a great city like London, particularly for one who has not been there in peace times it is of course, impossible to say that one has hit this or that dock or store house, but we can identify very well the general locality, particularly of such regions as the dock district along the river or the city and banking districts of London and find our way easily to the spots selected for our attacks."

"On one of our trips, and this is a fact that has as yet not been admitted by the British admiralty, we witnessed clearly the destruction of a warship on the Thames, one on which a fair and square hit was scored. On another occasion I dropped a bomb squarely on the front. I could not tell precisely the effect caused, but from the fact that the guns of the fort, which had previously been conducting a vigorous bombardment of the Zeppelin squadron, suddenly ceased fire and that the searchlight which had been playing upon us went out after a flash of flame and a heavy explosion, I concluded that the damage had been heavy, perhaps a magazine exploded."

Lieutenant Peterson, although still a comparatively young man, is one of the older officers in the German naval airship service, having been attached to the Zeppelin corps for two years or almost from the beginning of the navy's adoption of the big dirigibles. Before that he had had the usual course of sea duty and expects in time to return to it. We wear the iron crosses of the second and first class for his exploits.

Naval scouting, reconnaissance work and co-operation in the offensive and defensive operations of the fleet comprise the principal duties of the dirigible and aeroplane squadrons of the navy and how well these duties have been performed can probably be told only after the war.

"Our trips to Britain are only one incident in our regular work," he said. "When the admiral in charge has no particular task for us and conditions are favorable, orders are given for a voyage to England. It has even happened that the commander of an individual Zeppelin having performed the task which took him to the vicinity of the English coast sent a message by wireless to the home station asking permission to make a raid before returning—a highly successful one too. But chiefly we are engaged in scouting for the enemy's cruisers and battleship squadrons. On one occasion I sighted a group of submarines running on the surface but was unable to manoeuvre quickly enough to carry out a successful attack."

Attacks At Sea. Attacks upon warships at sea, said Lieut. Peterson are difficult and dangerous, except in cloudy weather since most of the warships now are equipped with anti-airship guns. Only when low hanging clouds permit the dirigibles to sweep down upon the warship to an elevation from which the quickly manoeuvring vessel offers a fair target, do such attacks offer a reasonable chance of success.

Returning to the subject of the attack against London, Lieut. Peterson was questioned about the rate and effect of the defensive measures against the dirigibles—anti-balloon guns, rifle fire, searchlights and hostile aeroplanes. Of these he attached importance only to artillery fire supported by searchlights, and even in this line, he said the British had been able to do little against the raids.

The searchlights, of course, pick us up now and then, but it is very difficult to hold a Zeppelin long in view owing to clouds and the changes

in direction, speed and altitude which we can make quickly, and it is still more difficult to get guns to get our range in the darkness under these circumstances.

No Aeroplane Attacks. Regarding attacks by aeroplanes mentioned several times in press despatches, the commander relegated these to the realm of fables. He had not known of an attack of this kind in any of the raids upon England or had he ever seen a hostile aeroplane in any of his various excursions thither. Aeroplanes can with difficulty navigate in the darkness, and have very little chance of finding or catching one of the high speed Zeppelins so that these had as yet no occasion to use the defensive armament, which they carry to drive away these wasps of the air.

Navigation for the Zeppelins, too, is by no means yet an exact science. Trips must be timed so as to cross the British coast in the darkness, make the attack and get away again before dawn.

A book by Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., entitled "War Pictures Behind the Lines," published by Smith Elder, is not one of those to be dismissed with the remark, "Oh, another war book." It is the first hand story of a man who has done valuable Red Cross work almost since the war began. It opens with a revealing talk which Mr. Malcolm had with the "now notorious Crown Prince" of Prussia at Berlin in January, 1914. He also saw the Kaiser, whose frankness nothing could exceed, but it was the Crown Prince who looking back on what he said, let the cat out of the bag. Here is his conversation with Mr. Malcolm, as reproduced from the latter's diary.

Crown Prince—After all, you British people ought to be better friends with Germany than you are.

I. M.—Sir, we are always ready to be friends, as you know, but to all of our overtures your Chancellor replies with an invariable snub.

Crown Prince—How can we trust you whilst you are allied with such people as the French or the Russians? You have nothing really in common with them, and you have nearly everything in common with us. Together we could divide Europe and keep the peace of the world for ever.

I. M.—But how would you propose to do that? Given our existing treaties, how could we break them in order to be better friends with you?

Crown Prince—You could shut your eyes and let us take the French colonies first of all. We want them.

I. M.—Forgive me, sir, I have seen several of your colonies and, may I say it with great respect, it would surely be better to improve the colonies you possess before you take those belonging to other people.

Crown Prince—That is very candid; but you know very well that none of our colonies are worth anything; if they had been valuable you would have had them long ago.

"The interview closed," he says, "by my making the trite remark that

nowadays nobody wanted war, which injured victors and vanquished in like degree, to which the Crown Prince vigorously replied:—"I beg your pardon; I want war. I want to have a smack at those French swine as soon as ever I can."

That the Russians are in retreat before the Germans, we are forced unwillingly to admit, but we take great pleasure in saying that in many homes hordes of Germans are in full retreat before White Russian Soap. Try it. It is equally good for both laundry and bath. The Cleveland Trading Company are agents.—aug31,11w,tf

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Hellish Tortures Inflicted by Turks on Armenians

Tortures inflicted by the Turks on the Armenians during the recent massacres, beside which the horrors of the fate of Belgium are pale, are described by Rev. E. O. Eshoo, an Armenian graduate of Knox College, in a letter to Professor A. H. Abott, of the University of Toronto.

Telling of the refugees whom he met in the burned and desolated villages along the way of his route through Armenia, he says:

"When they came to meet us I hardly knew old friends—hungry, dusty, with unkempt hair, and many nearly naked. I heard that many of the leading people were gone. When I went to my own house I found it crowded with fifty people. They had been there over a month and all the provisions, such as oats, rice, beans, camel meat, etc., were eaten—rugs and carpets were spoiled—windows broken, doors destroyed and bedclothes unfit to use. When I arrived many were dying each day from fever, and a month before 100 to 150 a day were dying from typhoid and typhus."

"When I saw Mrs. Eshoo I scarcely knew her. She had nursed and attended many sick people. My mother and sister, who lived in Abajav, fled and found refuge in a Moham-medan house. My sister reached the city, but while my mother was riding to the city on a donkey lent to her she was met by Kurds, who robbed her and beat her so that she died from the shock a few days afterwards. The daughter of one of my brothers died from fear, and the wife of another (the doctor) died in captivity. My aunt was killed outright in her bed, her head and breast being crushed with heavy stones. My uncle and his son (a Nestorian preacher) were both killed. One of them—I do not know which—had the skin taken from his body while he was yet alive. Two of his daughters, three of his grand-daughters and his daughter-in-law were taken into slavery."

Strange Discovery in German Trench

Examination Discloses Fact—Graves Belonged to Age Known as "Marne Culture" of 5th Century B.C.

In the German trenches east of Soissons, near the Chateau Buoy le Long, Captain Pehlemann stumbled across a bronze neck chain which protruded from the sides of the trench, and upon investigation a skull also was disclosed. Upon removing the earth from the side of the trench a whole row of graves was discovered, and the skeletons found therein had ornaments around the neck, the wrists and ankles, all of which were of solid bronze.

The graves were not dug very deep and the skeletons were with two exceptions intact. All of them had large bronze rings around the necks and arms. Beside each skeleton was a vessel which had contained meat that had been buried with the body, only a few weapons, mostly spears, were found with the bodies.

Ten of the skulls with the bronze ornaments were carefully packed and shipped to Germany in charge of Hans Riggemann, a university student. An examination disclosed that the graves belonged to the age known as the "Marne Culture," dating back to the fifth century before Christ. The bronze ornaments with their strange and fantastic figures belong to the fourth century before Christ.

Great interest has been manifested in these findings and preparations are being made to exhibit them in the museum in Berlin.

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