

CASUALTIES of 1914

EARLY in January the second phenomenal storm of the season added largely to the destruction of property along the ocean front of New Jersey and Long Island. The oil carrier Oklahoma was broken in two off Cape May, N.J., and twenty-seven of the crew were drowned.

On January 11 a Japanese volcano on Sakura Island burst suddenly into activity and destroyed three towns and killed more than a thousand persons. This volcano had been inactive for more than a hundred years.

During the British manoeuvres off Plymouth, January 16, a submarine failed to come to the surface after diving and her crew perished.

During a performance at a moving picture theatre at Surabaya, Java, seventy-five women and children were burned to death.

The steamer Norfolk, from Norfolk to New York city, was ranned by the Nantucket during a night fog off Cape Charles, January 30, and forty-one lives were lost.

On March 14 more than one thousand persons lost their lives in a storm which flooded several towns in Southern Russia, and about the same time many persons were killed by an earthquake at Akita, Japan.

The main building of Wellesley College was destroyed by fire on March 27. On March 31 the sailing steamer Newfoundland jammed in an ice-floe in the Strait of Belle Isle and seventy-seven of her crew were frozen to death. The same day the steamer Southern Cross and her crew disappeared.

On April 28, an explosion in a mine shaft at Eccles, W. Va., caused the death of 180 miners.

Early in May, Sicily was visited by a series of shocks which did great damage along the eastern coast.

The steamship Empress of Ireland collided with the Norwegian collier Storstad in the St. Lawrence river, May 29, and sank almost immediately, more than a thousand passengers losing their lives. This was the most appalling marine disaster of the year, up to the break out of the war.

On May 30, Capt. Robert A. Bartlett of the Stefansson Arctic expedition, returned to St. Michael, Alaska, with the news that the Karluk sank, January 11, after having been crushed by the ice, and that her crew was marooned on Wrangell Island. On September 7, eight members of this crew were found by a rescuing party.

On June 19 more than two hundred miners were lost by an explosion in a coal mine near Alberta, Canada.

A fire at Salem, Mass., June 25, destroyed half of the city, including several thousand homes and many large industrial establishments.

In this month, also, American consultants in various Chinese cities reported that floods in Southern China had destroyed the crops and made 2,000,000 persons homeless.

On September 18 the Francis H. Leggett collided with an unknown vessel off the Oregon coast and seventy-two of her passengers and crew were lost.

In October an earthquake in Turkey destroyed more than 3,000 persons in a few minutes.

Edison's great electrical plant at West Orange, N. J., was destroyed by fire on December 9.

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KILLED HELPLESS BRITISH

American Volunter On The Gneisenau Tells of Brutality of Germans in Battle off Chili

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 3.—Ships of the German squadron that met the British off the Chilean coast not only left British sailors to drown but ploughed through the struggling mass of men in the water and shot at them in passing.

Intimation of this inhuman practice is given in a letter received by C. J. Vedder, of this city, from his son, Dick, who volunteered for service on the Gneisenau and is thought to have been lost when that vessel was sunk by the British off the Falkland Islands.

The letter, which was written just after the Chile battle, follows:

Story of Battle.
"S.M.S. GNEISENAU, Cruising in the Pacific Ocean.—Dear Father: I wrote to you some time ago when we had that fight with the Japs, I thought then that I had seen some navy fighting, but it was nothing to the one that we just had with the British.

"I do not know what the names of the British ships were, but there were four of them, and four of us. The sister ship to the one I am on is the flagship. Its name is Scharnhorst. Besides us two there were the Nürnberg and Leipzig. They are not as large as we are, but they are good fighters.

"We were cruising off the coast of Chile when we sighted the four British ships. You know you can see a ship a long time before it comes close enough to hit, so we had plenty of time to clear our ship for action. We have eight-inch guns, and that was larger than they had, so we shot two of them to pieces before they could get within range of our ships.

Sunk 2; Chased 2.
"After we had sunk two of them the other two started to run away. We ran after them and shot one more to pieces, but the other one was too fast for us, so it got away.

"When we charged the two ships we had to run right through the place where we had sunk the other two. There were many Britishers

swimming around and hanging on to anything they could. I know we ran over some of them and the rest were left to drown.

"You know I do not believe I will ever get used to seeing men get killed, or to be shot while they are down and out. While they fight I will fight as good as any of them, but when they are in the water I do not like to see them killed.

"I would like to see some United States papers, but that is impossible. The only news that we get is what the crews of the ships tell us when we take on stores. DICK."



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BIG GUNS USED AT THE FRONT

Many Tales About German Artillery are Exaggerations —Powerful Guns of The British

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused by the mammoth engines of destruction which are being employed by the German armies. Terrible tales have been told of the eleven- and seventeen-inch Krupp weapons; but it may be said, without depreciating the powers of the enemy, that these stories are considerably exaggerated. The existence of the weapons had been known to military experts since the day the first of them appeared on the testing-range of its creators.

None of Them Used.

A friend of the writers, who has been responsible for many important developments in artillery weapons, and who saw these guns under test upon the Krupp ranges, maintains that neither of these terrible howitzers has yet been used, but that the ten and a half centimetre-four and a quarter inch-howitzers, with which the German army is well equipped, have been mistaken for them. The former were employed against the Liege, Namur, and Antwerp fortifications with deadly effect. No occasion has yet arisen for the use of the larger weapons, although the eleven-inch gun was being dragged southward, and was to be used for the reduction of the fortifications of Paris. Fortunately, however, the transport proved too difficult, and the guns became stranded in the country along the River Aisne.

Fell Back On Guns.

When the Germans retreated they retired until they reached the lines where these guns had been stalled, and where they had been placed upon emplacements when it was recognized that a German retreat was inevitable. These are the "Jack Johnsons," as they are facetiously dubbed by the British soldiers. The heavy siege-gun of such a calibre is too expensive an equipment to be used except in extreme cases. The forty-two centimetre howitzer which the same informant also saw under trial at the testing-ranges, has a life of only about thirty rounds. The shell weighs

nearly a ton, while the firing of a round represents an expenditure of twelve hundred pounds. The weight of the weapon precludes its movement by ordinary systems of haulage, and it can be moved only over a railway.

Has Range of 40 Miles.

The shell, when fired at a vertical angle of sixty-five degrees, has a range of between eight and ten miles, attains an altitude of about three miles, and travels at a speed of one thousand feet per second upon leaving the muzzle. Its flight may be followed with ease even by the naked eye, while with glasses the action of turning turtle, which occurs when the missile has reached the highest point of its trajectory, is plainly visible. Expert artillerymen, who are fully cognizant of the Krupp trend in gun evolution, evince slight regard for this weapon, and emphatically state that "its bark is worse than its bite."

The forty-two centimetre weapon is claimed as the modern wonder of the artillery world; but as a matter of

tact the British force is just as powerfully equipped; and when the time arrives for bombarding the fortresses guarding the German frontier, it will be the Germans as well as other nations, who will be surprised in turn. The field artillery of the British army, taken on the whole, is the most powerful in the world, and it will be found that our store weapons will fully maintain our claim to pre-eminence in this particular field of human endeavor.

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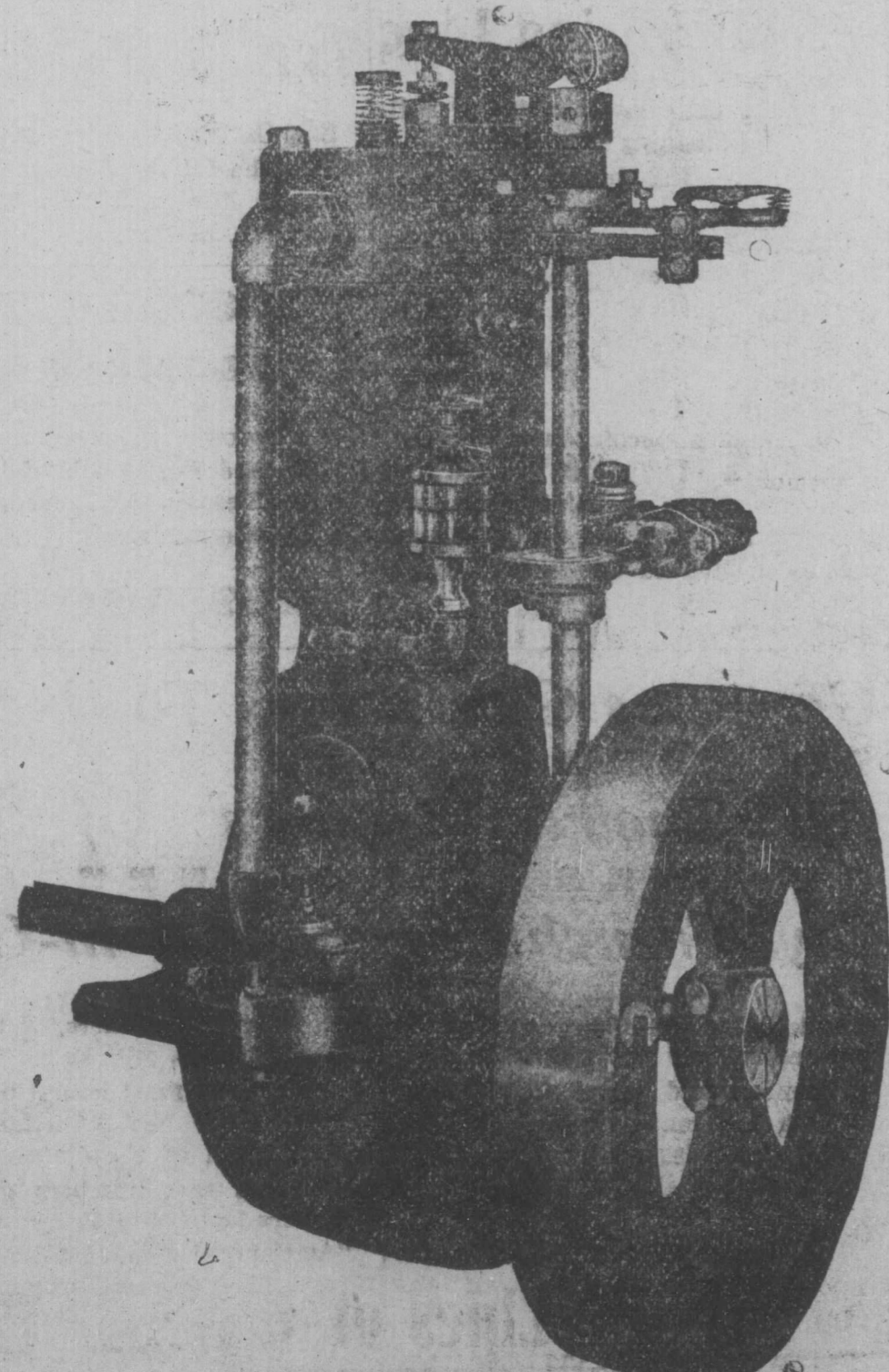
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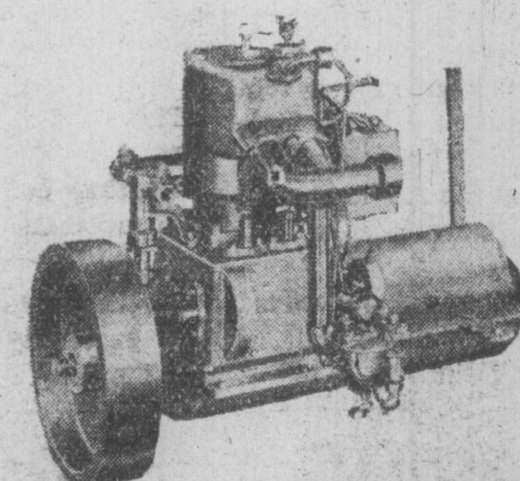
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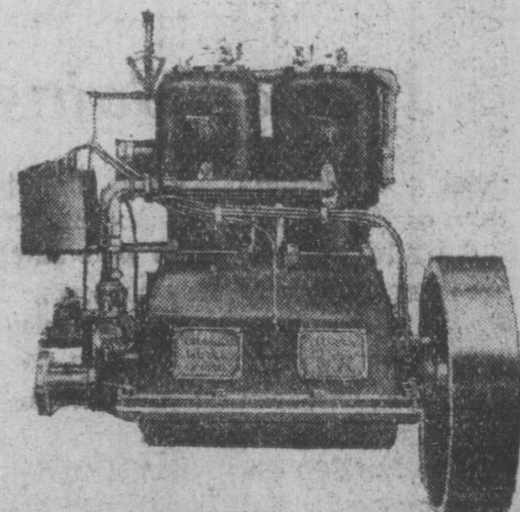
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