

Soldiers Froze to Death in the Balkans

Canadian Officer Tells Terrible Story of Allied Attempt to Save Serbia While Greeks Played Traitor in the Rear

A Canadian officer returned recently from the Saloniki front gives the following interesting and enlightening account of the early operations from that base, and the treachery of the Greek King.

The Saloniki Army would never have been at Saloniki at all if it had not been invited by the then Prime Minister of Greece, the great Constantine Venizelos. This was when the Greek army was mobilized by Venizelos against Bulgaria, on September 24, 1915.

The Greek army is composed of six completely equipped army corps, with adequate reserves. Its artillery fits it admirably for operations in the Balkans, as it is very strong in mountain guns, especially light howitzers. All equipment is on the best French model. It had been trained by a French military mission, and its morale was good after its easy victories of the late Balkan wars.

With the Greek first line of 200,000 men, with the 150,000 men sent by the Allies, Serbia could have been saved.

More Greek Treachery

A retreat from Serbian territory by the failure of the Greeks to act up to their engagements, became a military necessity. The Greeks at the time were very strong in the mountains, but the landing facilities of the port, which were limited, should be used for the supply vessels of their army. They also commandeered a large portion of the rolling stock on the Oriental Railway, and sent a lot of it into Bulgarian territory, and move up the Monastir line and down the branch line being constructed to link up the Greek Government railways in old Greece, with Macedonia. They also manufactured a couple of train wrecks on the Vardar river line, with the idea of starving out our troops up country. In fact, for two days we had to "carry on" on very short commons.

Greek King Ruins Our Plans

When the King of Greece found, however, that only 13,000 Allied troops had arrived as a first instalment—the first troops landed at Saloniki on October 6—and that Germany and Austria-Hungary were really in earnest in their attack on Serbia, he forced Venizelos from Government. He also appointed pro-Germans to all the important commands in the army and civil service. The State telegraphs, telephones and other news giving facilities were used for the dissemination of news favorable to the Germans, and as a means of informing the Germanic combination as to what we were doing.

In the meantime the Allied troops—one French division and the remnants of the British 10th Division (Irish)—had arrived from Gallipoli, and proceeded up country by means of the railway line which runs by the Vardar valley. The French were commanded by Gen. Sarrail, and the British by Sir Bryan Mahon (of Mafeking fame). There was no commander-in-chief. Each general worked "on his own," but they worked out their plans in co-operation.

The French held a position on the left, around Kriivolak, in Serbia, the British on the right of the railway line, well up into the Belashitz mountains round the village of Gabrova, and north of Doiron Station.

The Retreat From Serbia

The Allied troops in Serbia meanwhile began to retreat. The French

got back as far as Ghevelli with small loss, saving all their stores. Here, however, on December 7, they were heavily attacked and retired without advising us. We were also attacked by a force of Bulgars which outnumbered us about ten to one. The 10th Division was driven into Greek territory, with the loss of eight guns, and a heavy casualty list. The only thing that saved our force was the neglect of the Bulgars to follow up this retreat into Greek territory.

For days portions of the 10th and 22nd British Divisions, one brigade of the latter division having been in support, wandered on the mountains in a dense fog, and some were captured by the Bulgars. Ultimately the remainder was safely collected.

It was a very lively experience. The cold was intense and the sufferings of the men, indifferently clad for the rigors of a winter in the mountains, were terrible. The cold often froze sentries to death. This cold snap only lasted two weeks, but during that time it caused lots of trouble. The Greek King, Constantine, where the Greek troops were all around us and had their guns trained on our camp.

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Pledge to National

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den reiterated his declaration that the Canadian people, peace loving as they are, will support any peace proposal that does not ensure the triumph of the principles for which the Empire is at war. This feeling of the Prime Minister, referred to by the peace move of President Wilson, ironically remarked that he thought the objects for which the Allies were fighting were clearly set forth two years ago.

R. B. Bennett, M.P., Director-General of National Service, in a vigorous and eloquent appeal for co-ordination of national effort, was much more explicit in his references to the peace propaganda.

"I was surprised to learn that there was at least one man on the American continent who did not know why we had gone to war," he said. "There is not one man or woman in Canada who does not know."

Question of Compulsion

Mr. Bennett explained the plans of the National Service Board and meeting questions by one or two men in the audience in reply to the question proposed, declared his confidence in the spirit of the Canadian people. With marked seriousness he told the great audience that the present plan of registration was the last opportunity for voluntary effort, and the applause that greeted the statement left no doubt that Toronto is ready to support the Government in every forward move taken. The audience showed a disposition to disagree with Mr. Bennett's declaration that compulsion cannot be resorted to when the whole people being given an opportunity to understand the situation and the need.

"I ask the people of this city whether they are united in their support of the Government in every forward move taken," he asked. "I think I have seen something of the Canadian people, and I misread the spirit if they are not united in their support of the Government in every forward move taken." He asked, "I think I have seen something of the Canadian people, and I misread the spirit if they are not united in their support of the Government in every forward move taken."

NOMINATIONS AT ONONDAGA

All Members of 1916 Council Returned to Office by Acclamation

The nominations passed off comparatively quietly at Onondaga yesterday, all the members of the 1916 council being returned to office by acclamation. The speeches delivered were of an exceptionally high order, and were listened to with great appreciation by the audience comprising the following:

Reeve, A. B. Rose; Councilors, Clinton McBlain, Thomas Walker, Arthur Barton, Mortimer Hunter.

LOCAL ENQUIRY

Into the High Cost of Living—Bakers Turn Out, But No Quorum

Last night was allotted to an examination of the bakers, and invitations were issued to a number of them to be present. In spite of the fact that Friday was an exceptionally busy day, owing to the increased output of the Christmas season, in addition to the regular Saturday trade, the local bakers turned out, outnumbering the members of the commission present by one. The subjects of the inquiry were represented by Messrs. Harry Carpenter, manager, and Alex. Lockington, office manager, of the John McFutchion bakery, and Hugh Adams, of the Holmedale bakery, while only Alderman Ward of the city council and Mr. Geo. Keene of the Trades and Labor Council were present.

As there was no quorum, all that could be done was to adjourn until some time during the week following the New Year. However, the bakers assured Messrs. Ward and Keene that they would be welcome to come down and personally inspect their places at any time. Mr. Adams even going so far as to invite them, and offered to allow whatever number of inspectors appointed by the main body, to make a thorough examination of the method of manufacturing the staff of life, and to also look into his accounts if they so desired.

CHRISTMAS NEWS NOTES OF THE 215TH BATT

Christmas Tree for Soldiers' Children to be Held on Wednesday Evening

Invitations have been issued through Major Snider of the 215th battalion to twelve men of the unit, to have their Christmas dinner at the Kerby House. This is the third offer of the kind that has been received from various sources, and the officers and men of the battalion wish to convey their appreciation of the consideration that has been paid to them by the people of the city, not only particularly at this holiday season, but also the inauguration of the battalion.

Christmas cards, conveying the greetings of the season, have been received by the O.C., from the 227th, the C.M.R., and from Mr. J. H. Spence.

The officer commanding the battalion wishes the officers, N.C.O.'s and men, a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Arrangements are being made to send Lieut. Watt and Gundy to the Toronto Provisional School of Training to qualify as Captains, and Captains Hall and Tyrwhitt for field officers' courses at the same school. The officers in question will probably leave on the fourth of January.

Captain Slania will leave on Wednesday, December 27th for Toronto, for the purpose of writing his examination on Battalion drill.

Captains Joyce and Hall have been appointed battalion auditors, and will audit the books in the near future.

A new recruit was accepted by the battalion yesterday, in the person of George McIlroy, a resident of Stratford. The latest acquisition is an engineer, single and twenty three years old.

A telegram was received yesterday by Lieut. Harris Walsh, notifying him that his transfer to the 215th had been officially approved.

USEFUL GIFTS
Like a garden of flowers the great gift store is abounds with useful gifts reasonably priced, extra help promptly service is assured.—CROMPTONS.

MARKETS

FRUITS—	
Apples, bushel	0 00 to 1 00
Apples, bushel	1 00 to 1 50
Pears, basket	1 00 to 1 50
MEATS—	
Bacon, side	10 31 to 10 35
Bacon, back	10 25 to 10 30
Beef, per lb.	10 10 to 10 20
Beef, hinds	0 14 to 0 16
Turkeys	25 to 40
Geese	1 75 to 3 00
Chickens, each	16 to 17
Jacks	0 80 to 0 90
Dried salt pork	18 to 20
Dressed pork	10 10 to 10 20
Kidneys	0 10 to 0 12
Lard	0 22 to 0 30
Live Hogs	10 40 to 0 60
Smoked shoulder	15 to 20
VEGETABLES—	
Beets, 8 bunches	0 08 to 0 10
Celery	8 for 10 cents
Cauliflower	0 10 to 0 25
Carrots	15 to 20
Cabbage, each	0 10 to 0 25
Cabbage, doz.	0 50 to 0 60
Potatoes, basket	0 50 to 0 60
Potatoes, bushel	0 25 to 0 50
Potatoes, bag	2 35 to 2 35
Pumpkins, basket	0 25 to 0 50
Pumpkins, bushel	0 40 to 0 50
Pumpkins	0 15 to 0 20
Parley, bunch	0 05 to 0 06
FISH—	
Halibut, steak, lb.	0 20 to 0 30
Ripped herring	0 12 to 0 18
Salmon	0 12 to 0 16
Perch	0 12 to 0 16
Whitefish, lb.	0 18 to 0 18
DAIRY PRODUCTS—	
Butter, creamery, per lb.	0 48 to 0 50
Eggs, per doz.	0 00 to 0 00
Honey, comb, clover	0 25 to 0 30

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Marlboro Street Xmas Concert

Distinct was the success achieved last evening by the annual Christmas entertainment of Marlboro St. Sunday School, which was attended by a gathering of large size. The program of songs and recitations was rendered by the primary class, while Mr. Lamb, superintendent of the Sunday School, was presented by the teachers, with a handsome reading lamp. Every scholar present received a Christmas token from the teachers and the school. The platform of the Sunday School was a masterpiece, being staged in realistic Eastern style, illustrating the Christmas narratives of the Bible, with figures of the shepherds tending their flocks, the

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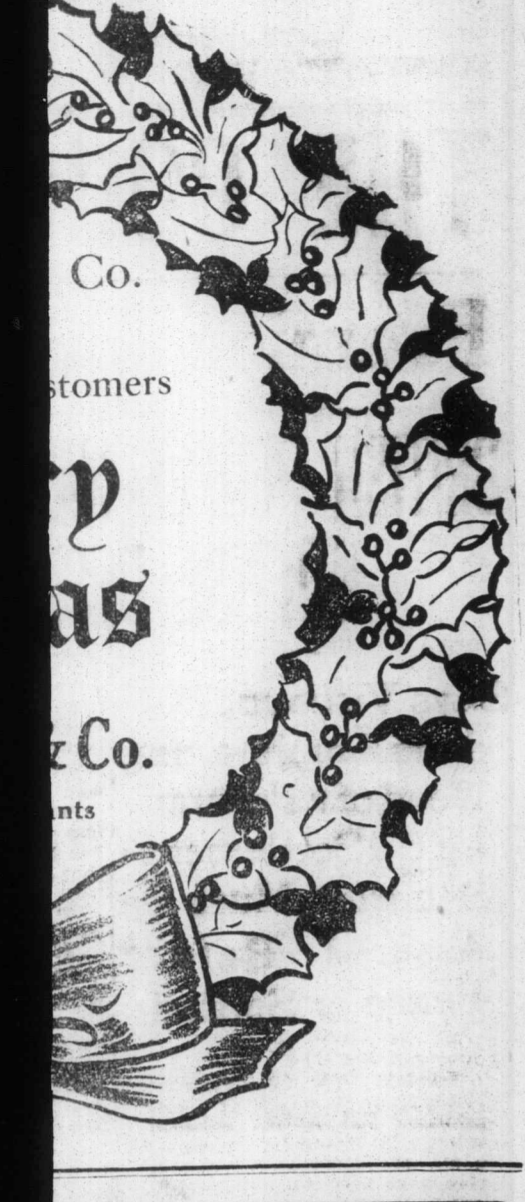
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d to You Their st greetings with rnest hope that v Year may bring abundant bless- Health, Happi- Prosperity.

MASTIDE 1916

ches. Letters and parcels for the men on the very front line are sent to them with their ration. The favorite Christmas card that the "Tomatoes" are sending home is one on which loving motives are woven with vibrant colored silk threads.

Obituary

John Simpson
The death occurred on Thursday, of John S. Simpson, aged 59 years. A widow, four daughters, Winnie, and Mary at home. Mrs. Frank Lane, Hamilton, and Mrs. Wilbur Moore, Port Hope, and three sons, Orville, Ottawa, Steward and Ward of home, mourn his loss. The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon at Mt. Hope cemetery.