

HOW THE DAY WAS SAVED

Thrilling Story of the Battle of Gheluvelt-- Brave Worcesters and Welsh--25,000 British Troops Check Great German Onslaught Near Ypres

In one of his earliest despatches, Sir John French paid a well-merited tribute to the gallantry of the Worcesters in the battle of Gheluvelt on October 21 last. This week the Worcester County Council, reviving an old territorial tradition, issued a full narrative of the battle, which relates one of the most dramatic stories of the war--how the Worcesters and the Welsh saved the very critical situation in the gigantic struggle for Ypres last autumn.

The story is told in simple language, and it should prove a fine incentive to recruiting, for it shows conclusively that whilst there is much nonsense talked about the degeneration of our race, the British infantry is the same as it ever was. The German force at Menin represented at least three Army Corps--100,000 men--and it appeared from a copy of an Order issued by General Von Beiming, taken from a Bavarian prisoner, that to these three corps the Kaiser had especially entrusted the task of breaking through the British lines to Ypres, for in the Kaiser's opinion the success of this attack was of vital importance to the successful issue of the war. On October 20 the Bavarians began an attack on Gheluvelt village and the 1st Division. It was made with great force and with greater determination. It failed. But to the south-west of the Menin-Ypres road the British were not so fortunate. Here the line of the Canal was held by the 7th Division, reinforced by the 3rd Cavalry Brigade. If strongly attacked this force was numerically so weak that it would have to fall back, as it could not hold the long length entrusted to its care. It was so attacked, and the division fell back to a position only three miles from Ypres. This retreat left open the flank of the 7th Division.

In the early morning of October 21 the division was ordered to assume the offensive, and at least drive back the Germans from the Zandvoorde ridge. It must have been obvious to the British that they would be in for very hard fighting, as the 7th and 2nd Divisions, containing at best some 25,000 men, were confronted by at least 100,000 men, all of whom were under the positive orders of the Kaiser to break the British line, let the rest of breaking it be what it might. Von Beiming, having protected his left against British attack, determined to attack the centre of the British line. This began by a very heavy fire on the village of Gheluvelt and the trenches near it by way of preparation for an infantry attack in force. The attack was made and repulsed. Nothing daunted, another attack was made and repulsed. It was followed by, if possible, a more severe fire of shells and a more furious infantry assault. It, however, shared the fate of its predecessors. With a pertinacity deserving a better fate, Von Beiming repeated his artillery preparations and his infantry attacks time after time, but he always met with the same results, in spite of his great advantage in all ways being able to bring up from his huge force fresh men for each attack, while the British had to rely on the same men, the Welsh, the Surreys, and the Scots, to repulse each successive attack. Still the Germans could make no way. They reduced the village of Gheluvelt to a collection of blazing ruins, but the British held on to the ruins.

Murderous Fire
The trenches on the cross road to the east were searched from end to end by the German shells; still the Welsh held on. Every spot in front, even the wood in the rear where the Worcesters were posted, was reached by the murderous German fire. Still the line held on. Whenever covered by the fire of their guns, the German infantry rushed to the attack, the fire of the machine guns and the rifles of the British was the same as ever--terrible, deadly, murderous. It gradually became clear that while the British were able to hold their own on the east bank the Germans were gaining ground on the west. For the British became more and more severe, and the order was given that the Worcesters were now to retire. The British Generals had got into a terrible scrape, the British soldiers had to get them out.

Regiments Wiped Out
Although the line of the 1st Division had been broken, the whole of it had not fallen back. The Surreys and the Scots had been practically wiped out, but the indomitable Welsh still held firm.
Posted in the hollow road to the east of Gheluvelt so slightly sheltered from the German fire, the Welsh still held their ground, thus forming

ments were sent up, the line could be a pivot upon which, if reinforced, re-formed and the position linked up. Holding back by their fire the mass of Germans with whom they were still engaged, the Welsh were covering the flank of the 2nd Division and checking the German advance. If they could hold on and keep the flank covered until help arrived the 1st Division could re-form, the gap could be filled up.

The position was critical and a very severe trial for the Welsh, but they belonged to a regiment who bore on their buttons the motto, 'Gwell angau na chywilydd; 'Better death than dishonour.' They had been told to hold the post to the last. They had done so. When Von Beiming advanced in the morning, hurling on them attack after attack, the Welsh held the road against him. When the Germans surrounded the Surreys and drove off the Scots, still the Welsh held on, firing steadily, still keeping back the Bavarians. When the Germans carried Gheluvelt and the British line gave way the Welsh remained firing, and held their ground against all comers, so delaying the German advance, and now at last when orders had been given to begin the retreat, the Welsh still remained where they had been originally stationed just as if the line was still intact and no retreat ordered. Could help be sent to them so as to enable them to reap the reward of their heroic constancy? It would need a dauntless regiment to advance under that hell of shrapnel to support the Welsh cut off from the rest of the line. Could such a regiment be found? On the answer depended not merely the fate of the Welsh, but of the British success.

A body of some 600 men, four companies of the 2nd Battalion of the Worcesters, were ordered 'to advance without delay and deliver a counter-attack with the utmost vigor.' No one who knew the ground doubted for an instant that they would do it; everyone was doubtful whether they could do it with success. They were only four companies; the Germans were legion. But, whether they were to be successful or unsuccessful, their plain duty was to attack the Germans, however many, with their handful of men, however few. The Welsh had to be supported, the Germans had to be repulsed. Everything depended upon their advance.

On receipt of his orders, Major Hankey, who was in command of the battalion, sent Lieutenant Haskett Smith with six scouts to reconnoitre the ground and cut any wire entanglements that would delay the advance. The A. Company, under Captain Wayman, was sent forward to occupy and hold the line of trenches between the wood and the village. Not the least of the exploits of the Worcesters on that day was the advance of this company to occupy and hold this trench. It was in effect asking an English company to advance and, as it proved, to successfully advance, against the whole German force at that point. The trench was occupied, and not merely occupied but held. Some 600 yards in front of the battalion was a small wood, forming some sort of cover. Here they deployed for the attack in two lines.

The Worcesters set out on their terrible task. For about half a mile they had to advance under a very heavy fire of shrapnel. Over part of the ground they could rush from one bit of cover to another, but at one place for about 200 yards it was quite open, with no cover at all.

Here they had not only the shrapnel in their front, but on their right flank the Bavarians pouring in a hail of bullets from their rifles and machine guns. It looked as if no one could pass through that fire unhurt. The Germans were constantly bringing up reinforcements, with fresh ammunition. It appeared that the men were going to certain death. The appearance was not deceptive, for in crossing the 200 yards without cover the three companies had no fewer than 100 casualties. Even this did not cause the Worcesters to flinch. They pressed onward, reached the road, and formed up on the left of the Welsh. In front of them, at a distance of some 300 yards, was a small wood filled with Bavarians. On these the Worcesters opened fire with such success that the enemy gradually retreated. But although the Worcesters had gained the road, supported the Welsh, and thus been instrumental in reforming the line of the 1st Division, their present position was far from being a safe one. From time to time parties of Germans from the village got round the Worcesters' right flank and caused trouble. They became so troublesome that

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Victory to Rest With the Allies

Submarine Warfare of Enemy Has Little Effect

That Britain, as a nation, was slow to wake up, but capable of lightning-like action when fully aroused and that just at this time it was yawning and rubbing its eyes, was one of the many breezy metaphors used by Rev. A. C. Dixon, D.D., pastor of Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, England, in his lecture at James street Baptist church last evening. Dr. Dixon, who is an American by birth, is a most fluent and forceful speaker and he had a gripping message for the hundreds who thronged the church last evening.

The Call of God to the Church of Christ in the Present World Crisis, was the subject on which he based his remarks, and, in discussing the war, he reiterated what others in a position to know and understand have said before—that no matter how long nor how terrible the war would wage, Britain and her allies must eventually be victorious.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities, Ireland was divided against itself, soldiers were drilling and arms were being imported. The Germans knew this and acted accordingly. Here they got their first shock, for the moment that war was declared all war ceased in Ireland, and Britain was unified as it never was before. So it was with the suffragette war, the militant mobs hoisting the white flag and joining the colors. It was hard to imagine, he realized, Lloyd George and Mrs. Pankhurst on the same platform, and still harder to realize 50,000 suffragettes in procession, pledging their support to the government in any action it might take.

As far as military conditions were concerned, the British army was not prepared. It had but few soldiers; not more than 250,000. But the navy was prepared. It had to be prepared, for Britain was founded on the seas and would starve to death if it could be blockaded for two months. Dr. Dixon said he believed that Russia, France and Italy would be victorious, but that even if they should fail, the war would be just beginning, for then the fight would come just where Britain wanted it—on the seas. He scouted the submarine scare and said that out of 20,000 boats which had left Britain's docks a very small proportion had been torpedoed and most of them were fishing smacks.

"The submarines are the assassins of the seas. They sneak up to a boat, torpedo it, and then run for shelter. Submarines are just like assassins who might come into this city to-night stab several people in the back, and then run and hide. They might keep it up for several nights, but the authorities would soon round them up. And so it is with the submarines. The British admiralty has successfully combated the submarines," said Dr. Dixon.

No transports going from Britain to France with soldiers had been sunk by submarines. Why? Because—and the speaker said he was talking confidentially—wire screens had been stretched beneath the surface of the water and the transports sailed in the lane so made, perfectly immune from submarine attacks. And he knew positively that many German submarines had been meshed in these screens, that the German crews had been captured and that the submarines were now being used by the British navy. One of these submarines was the one that sank the Lusitania.

Touching on his subject the part the church was playing, the speaker said that at the beginning of the war the people flocked to the churches. Then came apathy and they stayed at home, and now things were running along the normal grooves of church activity. But God had made His call and it was being heeded. A missionary he knew showed him a list of 7,000 signatures of soldiers who had accepted Christ. Recruiting meetings were being held throughout Britain, and the churches were helping, but the question he wanted to ask was, "Who is recruiting for Christ?" He scathingly denounced the public

houses in Britain, calling them the wolves who were lacerating the sheep, and, with God's assistance, he was going on a wolf hunt.
"The British government made the mistake of its history when it didn't throttle that wolf, but though things don't seem bright just now, I honestly believe I'll live to preach the funeral sermon of the liquor traffic," said the speaker.
In conclusion he referred to three terms mentioned in the Book of the Revelations—the beast, the dragon and the false prophet. Worst of these, he said, was the false prophet, the worst of false prophets was "Russellism."
"And I want to congratulate you on having for a pastor a man who has the courage of his convictions, a man who is not afraid to attack that which he thinks is wrong," he said.
This war, as Russell thought, was not Armageddon. The war of Armageddon would come when Christ and His hosts arrayed themselves against the evil spirits, the beast and the dragon.

EX-POLICEMAN A HERO

German Position Rushed and "Gunnery" Arrested

An amusing story of how a former Liverpool policeman, now a sergeant in a Midland Territorial regiment, "arrested" two Germans behind a troublesome machine gun is being told at a British hospital base at Boulogne. The hero of the story had been in the trenches for some days without anything of importance happening, when, early last week, a number of Germans managed to bring four machine guns into close range. For two days and nights this handful of Germans behind the guns kept up a deadly fire on the trenches occupied by Sergeant — and the rest of his regiment.

The matter was discussed by the officers, and it was decided to call for volunteers to charge down on the few men working the enemy's guns. Without an exception every man of the regiment offered to go. Lots were however, drawn, and a party of men were placed under the command of Sergeant —, the ex-Liverpool policeman.
In face of the withering fire of the four guns the gallant Midlanders rushed forward with fixed bayonets. Man after man fell, but still the sergeant was seen trotting on, followed by the remaining men of the party. Soon the sergeant, followed by about half the original number, had reached the enemy's position. With a bayonet thrust here and there the Britishers started killing off the Germans. Three of the four guns had ceased fire, but the fourth still worked.
The sergeant, who had in the charge forward lost his rifle, made towards this machine gun. Two Germans were behind it, each with a revolver; the policeman was not. Fearfully he crawled up behind the two Germans, and taking them by surprise he caught both of them under each arm. Utilizing the knowledge he had acquired whilst in the Force, he soon made short work of his enemies. The four guns were eventually dragged into our own lines.

BRITISH UNIFORMS TO BE FIREPROOF

American Discovery will be Used to Combat Burning Bombs of the Germans

Cincinnati Aug. 1.—L. E. Wolf, connected with a local manufacturing concern, has discovered a fireproofing liquid designed to offset the effects of the shells being used in the foreign war which, on exploding, distribute a burning liquid. Seven weeks ago Mr. Wolf received a request from the British Government to send it a gallon of his liquid.
It was stated in the communication that the army officials wanted to experiment with the liquid in fireproofing soldiers' uniforms, tarpaulins and other war paraphernalia.
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