

FATE OF NATIONS HANGING IN THE BALANCE AS FIGHTING LIVES UP ON WESTERN FRONT

For Great Spring Drive Allies Need Last Ounce of Men, Money and Energy

St. Stephen Doctor Sounds Grave Warning That Victory Would Not Be Easily Won—Soldiers Show Supreme Courage in Hour of Anguish But They Must Be Supported by New Men—Some Instances of Heroism.

A St. Stephen boy writing home says that the present year will unfold the most profound and tragic events in all the history of the ages. He claims that through the present lines held by the Germans it will be extremely difficult for the Allies to advance unless every last ounce of man, money and energy is put forward during the coming year.

The supreme courage of the soldier on the western front is vividly narrated, and the writer, who is a surgeon attached to the C. A. M. C., tells of the action of men who come to his hospital frightfully wounded and with little or no chance of living. They face death calmly and stoically await the inevitable end. The writer says that the Germans are at the present time well organized and their troops in good condition, and that the present year is bound to see some terrific fighting on the western front, terrible because it will be decisive. It is on this front that the fate of the nations involved hangs in the balance.

Four Months at Work.

Dr. E. V. Sullivan, of St. Stephen, who is a surgeon at the front, writes the following interesting letter to a friend in his home town:

It was just four months ago that the hospital unit to which I am attached left Havre for our station on the line "somewhere in Northern France." Our orders to move came one morning in August, and two hours later we were on the hot, dusty eight mile march to the docks where our twenty tons of hospital equipment were stowed. This we had to transfer through traffic crowded streets, in the heat of the afternoon, to the station, and then to the hospital. The march was a long one, and we were all very tired. At last, the last day of dressings arrived, and our men packed away, forty to each dinky little French "goods truck," and at about 10 o'clock we pulled out of the crowded station, and crawled slowly away into the night, to take our place in the endless procession of trains that carry troops and munitions up to the "big show."

Looking back now over four busy months to that day of leaving Havre for the front, two or three incidents stand out clearly in my memory. As we were standing at the end of the road side after the hot, dusty march to the docks, a regiment of killed Highlanders, just off a transport, all speck and span, and headed by their pipers, swung past to the skirt of the pipes. We were hungry and tired, and the sight of marching troops was nothing new to us, yet there was that inspiring about those lineal, confident Scots with their swinging pipes, that braced us like a tonic to the work that was still before us. And later, on the unexpected and humbly, we came lunch we had in the muck of the crowded station, where hundreds of hungry soldiers and hungered officers hustled for a bite or two and a bowl of tea before the long night journey. All honor to those fine English girls from pleasant homes with green lawns and gardens and hedges, who gave away in the ugly, smoky French, and night, in eight hour shifts, to make the way a bit easier for the boys in khaki, the memory of them and their good cheer, and the warm hearts of many thousand men long after the events have been forgotten. In the little back lunch room reserved for officers I added my name to the list in the guest book, that held many signatures of brave fellows who will never return to England any more.

Historic Scenes.

The journey up country took two nights, the intervening day being spent in the fine old French city of Rouen, where I found time to visit the two cathedrals, the old market place where Jean of Arc was burned, and the river, with its interesting bridges and varied shipping, and here I saw for the first time a regiment of steel helmeted French soldiers. The men looked fit and smart, and well clothed. I was told that they were veterans who had lately come in for a rest and refitting, and were now on their way back to the front.

Following our arrival at the post assigned us, came three French weeks of work by the whole unit, and at the end we had changed an old abandoned bicycle factory that was heaped with the cobwebs and grime of fifteen years, into a nice clean white-washed hospital, with two good operating rooms, dispensary, and all the facilities needed for the care of about 700 patients, and three weeks to the day, after our arrival, we received our first convoy of wounded.

Organization Good.

The organization for the care of the wounded Tommy of the British army is beyond all praise, better, it is said, than that of any other nation. And Tommy knows this, and fights all the more confidently in the knowledge that if he is howled over the way will be made wonderfully easy for him. And this, too, when casualties mount away up into the thousands, so wonderfully, that the resources of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

In a short letter like this I cannot begin to tell you of the wide scope of the R. A. M. C. work. To keep the soldier fit is the kernel of the nut, easy and simple enough in principle, yet out of the row tremendous problems, and the actual care of the wounded is a laboring thing when compared with the ceaseless care and watchfulness over the sanitation of vast crowded camps and billets and trenches, the spotting of contagious diseases among the native villagers; the work of the traveling laboratories; the establishment of great baths and laundry and rest stations; the sanitation of the many reserve and training centres that stretch away farther than you can

see; the management of the great chain of field ambulances, clearing stations, hospital barges and hospital ships; and finally the big hospitals and convalescent camps in England, France, Egypt and Malta, and many other places.

How Wounded Are Handled.

I shall only try to tell you now, what happens to the wounded man, from the time he is hit until he reaches one of the big hospitals.

In a "dug out," back of the fire trench, is the regimental medical officer, and to him is taken the wounded Tommy by a couple of his mates. The R. A. M. C. dresses the wound and at the first opportunity stretcher bearers carry the patient down the communicating trenches to the field ambulance, a specially equipped station. This is usually about a mile back of the fire line, in a farm house cellar or dug out as is most convenient, and here the wounded are gradually accumulated during the day and are cared for by a competent surgeon and assistants who redress the wounds and make the patients comfortable until after night fall, when the ambulances are brought up, and take them back to the field ambulance main station. Again the patients are looked over by the ambulance surgeons, emergency operations are done, the hospital wounded are kept and all others made ready for the trip by motor ambulance convey to the nearest casualty clearing station, which is usually about eight or ten miles back of the firing line, and as near as possible to a rail head. The time taken from fire trench to C. C. S. is from twelve to twenty-four hours.

Varied Operations.

Though called a station, the C. C. S. is really a hospital, where the seriously wounded find comfortable beds in warm wards, are cared for by sister nurses, and receive whatever surgical operations may be needed. An average day's surgical work will include the setting of fractured bones, amputations, trephinations, from one to three or four appendicitis operations, the removal of bullets and shell fragments, repair of lacerations, eye operations, treatment of burns and many dressing of minor injuries. And up stairs, in the medical wards, are cases of pneumonia, typhoid, typhus, fever, rheumatism, gas poisoning, trench fever, grippe, and the poor chaps who have become nervous wrecks through the shock of the war, and the strain of their dangerous work.

In quiet times, our average take in is from thirty to sixty patients, but this of course runs up into the hundreds after fighting of any severity. And when this happens, we lose all run of time and meals and sleep and the hours become a confused nightmare of hurrying, of rushing, of carrying, and dressing that seem unending.

Off to England.

And then, on every second or third or fourth day as needed, along comes one of the superbly equipped ambulance trains and our wards are cleared of all except the cases that would be dangerous to move. For instance, we don't send out pneumonias until after the crisis, and bad head injuries, cases of surgical shock, and men who show chest or abdomen, are usually kept until death occurs or they are out of danger. The train carries them to the big base hospitals on the coast, whence they are conveyed to England in the hospital ships, and jolly glad most of them are, you may be sure, to get back once more to their old home island.

Of the patients we get one can only speak in terms of very great and sincere admiration. Hardly ever is there any complaint, their patience is remarkable by all who visit our station, and to the staff that cares for them, it is a constant source of inspiration.

Superb Courage.

Here is just one instance. A boy of the West Kents was brought in last night and fell to my care. One could see right away he was badly hurt. I said, "Is there anything you would like?" "I could do with a hot drink sir," with a smile that was half apology for the trouble it would be. And found a torn side of an elbow joint destroyed; and a great herniated muscle wound of the thigh, which means the bullet had entered from the front, fractured the bone, and spreading, had forced the heavy thigh muscles out through a gaping rent in the skin behind. Yet no word of complaint or pain, but just the simple request, low spoken with a smile of apology for the trouble it would give. "I could do with a hot drink sir," he said, and three hours later, and the sister and I are going to write his mother and we have never met a braver boy.

We don't get many Canadians at our station, for the division we receive from

SANTA CLAUS WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS IN THE TRENCHES



The photograph shows a British soldier wearing the new mask against asphyxiating gases that is now in general use by the warring countries. Note the valve projecting from the front of the mask, through which the air is drawn, within for purification by chemicals.

are made up of English, Scotch, and Irish regiments. My first meeting with one of our own boys was amusing. It happened in the dressing room when a chap came to have his arm dressed. I said:

"What is your name?"

"O'Brien, sir."

"O'Brien, and what are you doing with kilt on?"

"No, sir, I was born in Ontario, sir."

So there you are, I used the incident later during an argument in the mess, to illustrate the adaptability of the sons of Canada, for O'Brien from Ontario, in kilt, made as bonnie a Scotch lad as any medical officer who have been all up and down the lines, tell me that they like to treat the Canadians best of all, for they are the cheeriest and most care free men of the lot.

The other day a wounded German was brought in, the first we have seen for some weeks. Quite characteristically Boche he was, six footer, with thick neck and short, bristly, black hair. And mark you, he was well nourished, clean shaven and very well clothed. So we used a pinch of salt when you read articles in the press, most of them inspired by German agents, about the starvation and blue ruin that overhangs the Vaterland.

The truth of the matter is that the armies and resources of the central powers were never more efficiently organized than now. Their lines of supply and transport perfected, their troops seasoned, the incompetent commanders weeded out, and tried successful generals in command of all important movements. We cannot be beaten, because of one fact, that is, that the Allies are not organized for the purpose of further involving the United States in a controversy with the British government.

Relief at the safety of the liner, coupled with undigested admiration for the exploit of the captors, marks the British attitude toward the Appam incident. But the international aspect of the case developed much criticism of the German move as being deliberately planned by the purpose of further involving the United States in a controversy with the British government.

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ZEPPELIN RAID INTERN GERMANAS, ALLOW PASSENGERS TO GO FREE

DAMAGE LIGHTER THAN FIRST THOUGHT

Two Factories Damaged, Neither of Which Is of Military Importance—London Life Goes on as Usual

London, Feb. 2, 11.08 p. m.—The war office tonight issued the following statement with reference to the Zeppelin raid on England:

"The utterly inaccurate report in the Berlin official telegram of Feb. 1, which purports to describe the effect of the German attack on the night of Jan. 31, affords further proof of the fact that the raiders were quite unable to ascertain their position, or shape their course with any degree of certainty."

"A number of cases of injury, mostly slight, have been reported, and the previous figures were issued, and there have been two or three more deaths. The figures now stand as follows:

"Killed—Men, 89; women, 30; children, 6; total, 125.

"Injured—Men, 61; women, 41; children, 21; total, 103; making the total of the injuries 228. Men, 130; women, 69; children, 21—a total of 220."

"A church and congregational chapel were badly damaged, and a parish room wrecked. Fourteen houses were demolished, and great number damaged less seriously, by doors, windows, etc., being blown out. Some damage, not very serious, was caused to railway property in two places. Only two factories, neither being of military importance, and a brewery, were badly damaged, and two or three other factories were damaged slightly."

"The total number of bombs discovered up to the present exceeds 300. Many of them fell in rural places, where no damage was caused at all."

London Bears Attack Stoically.

Visitations of Zeppelin airships have come to be a novelty to the English people. The general viewpoint from which the public appears to regard them is that they would regard some disturbance of nature, which might be counted upon to happen in the course of the war, and which a certain number of persons were destined to lose their lives, as from a flood or a fierce thunder storm.

French Guns Break Up Convoys.

Paris, Feb. 2.—The following statement was given out by the war office this afternoon:

"Between the Ayr and the Aisne our artillery fire on convoys in the region of the farm below Tournai, as well as in the Argonne, we exploded a mine at Hill 383."

"In Alsace our batteries exploded a munition depot at Orbe, southeast of Bon Homme. In the region of Sondernach, south of Muenster, the Germans occupied one of our positions, and we captured a machine gun, and a number of other weapons."

Explosions in Enemy Batteries.

The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"In the night of Jan. 31-30, 1916, a Zeppelin dropped several bombs on the road from Lille to the sea. It caused three explosions in the enemy batteries in the region of Vimy. To the northwest of Berry-au-Bac, German troops in front were surprised by the fire of our cannon."

"In Champagne we bombarded the enemy works to the north of Soissons. On the 29th, we fired two or three 210-millimetre shells to the northwest of Flixes, and reported."

"In Lorraine, east of Senones, our batteries exploded an enemy blackhouse. There has been cannonading on the rest of the front."

"Army of the east: Communication of Feb. 1.—In the night of Jan. 31-30, 1916, a Zeppelin dropped several bombs on the port and town of Saloniki. Two of the projectiles fell on the Green prefecture, a third on the Bank of Saloniki, which was completely burned. The other bombs caused only slight material damage."

"The number of victims among the Russian population was eleven killed and fifteen wounded, in addition to two soldiers killed and one wounded."

"An enemy aeroplane was brought to earth by one of our machines between Toul and Verdun, west of Salgotria. The two aviators, a captain and an aspirant (midshipman) were made prisoners."

Russia the Invincible.

London, Feb. 2.—M. Sturmer, the new premier of Russia, declared in an interview in the Novoye Vremya, of Petrograd, that his policy would be to bring about a peace, with the one idea of bringing the war to a successful issue. He said he proposed for a separate peace would provide a solution of the problems which confront the nations as a result of the world-wide conflict, and added:

"Those who speak of financial or economic exhaustion of Russia appear ridiculous to me, for Russia cannot be exhausted or conquered."

To Give Filipinos THEIR INDEPENDENCE

Washington, Feb. 2.—A definite policy, contemplating Philippine independence within four years, was approved by the senate today. Vice-President Marshall casting the deciding vote in favor of the Clarke amendment to the Philippine bill directing the president to withdraw American sovereignty within a four-year period. The vote was 41 to 41. An effort to re-commit the bill was defeated, and final action on the measure, which has not yet passed the house, was deferred until tomorrow.

Administration senators, in supporting the Clarke amendment, maintained that some definite provision was necessary to the United States platform, and that the declaration in the Baltimore platform, by the terms of the amendment provision is made for extension of time for granting independence, if the president should deem it advisable, until Congress shall have had an opportunity further to consider the subject.

Provision is also made for the retention by the United States of all the rights for naval bases and coaling stations.

INTERN GERMANAS, ALLOW PASSENGERS TO GO FREE

This Probably the Course of U. S. Government in Dealing With Case of Captured Steamer Appam

Converted Merchantman, Not Submarine, Captured Appam and Sank Eight Other Steamers—Carries Heavy Battery Behind Canvas Forecastle—Ar