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## Compare Some of Germans to Whipped Dogs

### Vivid Story of French Victory at Combres—German Trenches Filled With Dead, and Many Prisoners Were Taken

London, March 16.—A striking description of the important French victory at Combres, north-east of St. Mihiel, is contained in a special despatch to the Morning Post, which is dated "On the Meuse, March 9".

"Despite the miserable weather conditions, heavy and persistent rains, followed by snow and intense cold, no one could possibly be downhearted in the east of France. The entire aspect of the campaign has changed, and, from being defenders, the Allies have assumed the role of tireless attackers.

"It is now the Germans who are clinging desperately to the strong holds that still remain to them and are daily becoming more precarious as the French flanking attacks are being pushed home through the weak spots or onto commanding positions, dominating the German advanced points.

#### Against Blind Wall

"As in the west, the French have to face in certain places advanced German positions—salients thrust out into France from which, owing to the configuration of the ground, it is inadvisable, if not impossible, to dislodge the enemy by direct frontal attack.

"There are three of such salients: First, that of St. Mihiel; second, that running from Montfaucon down to Varennes; three, that immediately east of Rheims, consisting of the spur of hills which adjoins upon the River Vase, opposite Sillery.

"Their advance, however, came up against something in the nature of a blind wall at St. Mihiel, where it was faced by the winding Meuse and by the almost impenetrable earthworks on the further bank and hemmed in by powerful fortifications on the hills, commanding the town on either hand, which if they cannot shell the Germans in St. Mihiel itself owing to the extreme steepness of the hills surrounding the narrow valley, can at all events prevent them from spreading in any direction.

#### The Line of Battle

"What appears to be the most serious menace to the advance German position at St. Mihiel comes at present from the west, from the base angle at Fresnes and Woivre. The country down each side of the wedge is so difficult as to render attacking operations very doubtful of success, but if the base is broken the same result will be attained.

"The line of battle swings wide round Verdun, which is safe from all danger now, and turns down into the St. Mihiel wedge about Etain. On the western flank, behind Fresnes lie the forest heights of Ambionville. They had belonged to the French for months, but for equally long our most advanced position was at Les Eparges beyond the front at the bottom of the valley, where our trenches were open to severe attack from the open heights beyond held by the Germans.

#### Expensive Sapping

"Thanks to some of the most brilliant fighting of the campaign these heights are now in our possession. The Crete de Combres, as it is called, is in reality a plateau. The top of this plateau is not very broad and it descends pretty speedily to the broad plain of the Woivre, not so steeply, though, as it rises from the valley in which Les Eparges lies, for there the hillside presents a series of small cliffs, which, when the final assault was made, had to be scaled with ladders in the same way as a fortress.

"This occupation was preceded by some of the most thorough and expensive sapping seen in this war. Mines were dug practically through the hills and when the final explosion, which heralded the infantry attack, occurred, the heights were obscured by tremendous upheaval from the earth, as if from a volcano. At the same time the ground was being prepared by a heavy artillery fire. Battery after battery had been concealed in the forest heights and they swept the German positions with an inferno of shell fire. Reply to them was difficult because the French guns were concealed in splendid cover in the valley below.

"On the way up the storming parties passed trench after trench upon the side of the German hill which bore witness to the effectiveness of the French projectiles. The trenches had been fully manned, and, being narrow in many cases, were packed

with men. Now they were filled with dead, so close together that there was not even room for the bodies to fall.

#### Heavy German Losses

"There was little wonder that those who escaped were demoralized and that prisoners were taken wholesale. One officer, who was forced to surrender with a considerable body of men, refused with every evidence of chagrin to deliver his sword to any one but a French officer, and, when he did so, exclaimed bitterly, pointing to his men: 'What could a man do with whipped dogs like these?'

"At a low estimate the German losses when the Crete de Combres was carried amounted to four thousand.

"The French troops engaged in this brilliant piece of work belong to the Troupes de Convulture, the first line of defence, comprising the corps de elite of the Chasseurs de Pied. The men declare that it was the fiercest fighting they had had, and its results are most important.

"Despite the inevitable counter attacks, and these have been severe, the French have forced the enemy across the plateau and at the present moment they are clinging desperately to its edge.

"Once over the edge, the plain of the Woivre is under the French fire a gently undulating country strewn with small spinneys of trees, the valley of Longeau is commanded, and the German way to St. Mihiel is most seriously menaced."

## "No Concessions To Italy" Declares Francis Joseph

Absolutely Refuses to Cede Trentino to Italy and Insists That Negotiations be Broken Off

Rome, March 18.—Negotiations carried on by Prince von Buelow, German Ambassador to Italy, with a view to having Austria make important territorial concessions to Italy as the price of this country's neutrality, are still continuing, although it is credibly reported that Emperor Francis Joseph has announced that he will never consent to such a step. Meanwhile events are occurring which will give increasing force to the belief that Italy will enter the war on the side of the Allies within a very short time.

Today in the House of Deputies the defence of the State Bill, one of the most drastic measures ever introduced in the Italian Parliament, was passed by a vote of 334 to 34.

As regards the question of concessions, the situation appears to be that Austria is willing to yield a little, but that Italy's aspirations are so great that no result will be reached. On this phrase the following uncensored despatch from Vienna is receiving great attention:

"The Emperor Francis Joseph gave an audience yesterday to

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Birth land of statesmen, bards, heroes, and sages;  
 Mother of nations—the homes of the free;  
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Now that thy bugles their clear calls are shrilling,  
 Now that thy battle-voice echoes world-wide,  
 O'er the long reaches of sea rush the willing  
 Sons of thy children to fight by thy side.

Eager to aid thee with treasure and tissue,  
 Other leal millions will come to thy call,  
 Civilization is staked on the issue—  
 Woe to Mankind if thy lion should fall!

Fall he will never, till English force slacken  
 In the great soul of thy dominant race,  
 Now, as of old, do the Destinies beckon  
 Thee to be highest in power and place.

Conflicts now raging will pass into story,  
 Nations may sink in defeat or disgrace;  
 Long be thy future resplendent with glory,  
 Long be thy triumph the pride of our race!

—John E. Dolson, in New York Times, March 8, 1915.

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## WILL PAINT THE TOWN WITH BLOOD OF ENEMY

Ferocious Document Issued by Turkish Governor at Smyrna Against Foreign Residents

London, March 20.—The text of an alleged proclamation issued at Smyrna by Rahmy Bey, the Turkish governor, threatening to massacre the foreign residents of the city, is given by the Daily Telegraph's Athens correspondent as follows:

"By the grace of the Almighty, the enemy's attacks will cost dearly. A defense equal to that made by the forts and more terrible will be organized against the enemy within the town.

"The town will be painted from end to end with the blood of the enemy, who will see his attempts brought to naught. The transformation of the town into a battlefield will be worthy the grandeur of Ottoman history."

The proclamation was not taken seriously by the foreign residents, the correspondent adds, although the English residents were put under semi-surveillance at the clubhouse, their relations with the

## 12,000 BOY SCOUTS IN THE BRITISH SERVICE

Youngsters Used as Signalmen—61,600 Patrolling England's Coasts

London, March 20.—Boy Scouts are now engaged in the navy for signaling and are receiving more pay than midshipmen. More than 12,000 scouts have entered military service of one kind or another, and 2,000 more who are nearing the age of enlistment are in training.

At the outbreak of the war the scouts by thousands guarded telegraphs, telephones and bridges, served as messengers, and performed countless duties of value to the War Office and the Admiralty. More than 5,000 medals have been given to scouts who performed not fewer than twenty-eight days' service. About 50,000 boys have served a lesser number of days.

Turks were friendly and the governor actually took tea at the club house and provided a musical entertainment for the English while the firing was in progress.

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