

# ROAR OF SHELLS USHERS IN CHRISTMAS MORN

## Graphic Account of Christmas Eve on the Battlefield in Arras -- Spirit of Arras Survives Among Heap of Ruins-- Santa Claus and Christmas Spirit Defy German Shells -- Orchestra and Concert in Trenches

Arras, on the French Front, Dec. 26.—Hundreds of big shells tore the air over Arras all Friday afternoon. The echoes of these were the last complaints of the season, and they had no sooner died away than the life of Arras began to show itself through the open collar doors and windows, in preparation for the usual Christmas Eve festivities.

The people of the Arras region rise above their afflictions due to the war, and the spirit of Arras survives among the heaps of ruins.

"It would be really a shame if we had not got used to it during all these months," said a woman selling postal cards and stationery by a candle light on the first floor of a building, three parts open to the sky. "What we've got to do," the woman continued, "is to hold out for final victory and lasting peace."

After the usual systematic shelling died down rifle shots and the occasional rattle of machine guns was all that broke the stillness of death that settled over the city. The cathedral, where midnight mass was said last year, under the thunder of cannon, stood out against the twilight in ragged ruins, like a spectre, with crumbling walls of demolished buildings through the darkness, a short distance away. Staff officers, waiting for dinner, led the correspondent for the Associated Press to an adjoining room, which resembled the crater of a miniature extinct volcano.

"If it continues much longer, you are likely to have your dining room also opened to the weather," said the correspondent to the officers.

"That is quite possible," replied a captain, "but the destination of a shell is something over which we have not any control yet, have we lieutenant?" But the lieutenant was absorbed in an illustrated paper, which had just arrived, and made no comment.

Santa Claus and the Christmas spirit, in spite of the war, were in evidence everywhere along the Arras battlefield, where the correspondent passed Christmas Eve. They were in the trenches and shelters with the simple soldiers; in the temporary barracks where the traditional Christmas Eve theatre was replaced by an improvised concert and vaudeville that rivalled best Paris could do in time of peace; in the quarters where the officers celebrated, with no less simplicity and dignity, and in the first little church still defying shell fire, the tone finds behind the battlefield, midnight mass was celebrated. From the road running almost parallel to the trenches rockets, shooting up into the air from both lines, recalled the fourth of July fireworks in America. An officer explained that this was partly due to a habit.

"Fuses are set off every night," the officer explained, "even when the moon shines brightly, as tonight, and besides the Germans may, as last year, have an idea that we are going to them before morning."

The faces multiplied at the approach of midnight, and on the stroke of twelve the line as far as the horizon, was illuminated as by a long line of brilliant stars. Flashes of different colors could be seen far away to the north, although no reports were heard around Souchez, a lieutenant explained. Several miles up the deep wide ditch with twelve inches of chalky mud at its bottom, just far enough from the German line to permit tranquil sleep, soldiers entertained each other with simple folk songs of their home regions, and examined parcels from home and talked of victory. One soldier read a little note from home which said: "This year it is I who play father. This year I broke open my savings bank, and am sending presents to papa at the front."

The soldier did not explain who the writer was, but his thick coarse beard failed to hide a touching smile with which he accepted the reversal of Christmas roles.

"They're slinging over there," said

## 69TH PRESENTS SILVER CUP TO ST. DAVID'S

Presentation yesterday at service in recognition of kindness received by men of Battalion.

At the morning service yesterday in St. David's church Major Williams on behalf of "B" company, 69th Battalion, presented to the church a very handsome silver cup, suitably engraved, in recognition of the many kindnesses received from the church during their stay here. Rev. Mr. McKelgan accepted the gift on behalf of the church.

At the evening service the trustees presented to James H. Donnelly, who has enlisted in the 104th Battalion a purse of gold. Mr. Donnelly has been sexton of the church for ten years.

## DEATH CAME SUDDENLY TO COURT REPORTER

Fred Devine died last evening—Was about city yesterday—Thirty years as Court Stenographer.

The very many friends of Fred Devine were shocked to learn of his sudden death which took place last evening in his home, Prince William street. Mr. Devine was about the city yesterday afternoon and partook of a hearty supper. Shortly afterwards he became ill and died almost instantly.

The deceased was 56 years of age, a native of Westmorland County, and the son of the late John Devine. For thirty years he has been an official court stenographer and was one of the first to be appointed along with Mr. Frank R. Steen and the late W. H. Fry. He also studied law with Dr. Silas Alward. He was an excellent writer and quite recently published a book of poems.

At the last sitting of the Circuit Court Mr. Devine reported every session. As a court stenographer he was given a wide circle of friends who will be grieved to learn of his death. He leaves a widow to mourn her sad loss.

## GUARDIANS OF THE PEACE HAD BUSY WEEK-END AND VARIED DOCKET AWAITS MAGISTRATE THIS MORNING.

The police were kept busy on Friday and Saturday. Many men under the influence of liquor who were quite able to get along home with the assistance of friends were allowed to do so, but those who were less fortunate were taken to the patrol wagon. As a result the total number of common drunks gathered in was eleven on Friday and two on Saturday. In addition to these others were arrested for more serious charges than that of being drunk.

On Friday I. C. R. Policeman Roberts and a Military Policeman, arrested Fred Bell on the charge of being drunk, disorderly, profane and resisting police. Alfred Williams was arrested on Water street by Officers McNamee and McLeese for being drunk, profane, obscene and resisting arrest.

Samuel Carson was given in charge of Sgt. Caplan and Officer Young, who charged him with giving liquor to a soldier in uniform.

Ward Stevens and Robert Stevens were arrested by Sgt. Rankine and Officer Armstrong on the charge of being drunk and impeding pedestrians on Union street. Ward Stevens is also charged with violently resisting the officers. Harry Lean was taken to the police headquarters and detained on the request of the Military Police.

On Saturday Henry McLean, James Gobbie, Douglas McLaughlin and Jas. Ewen were arrested by Detectives Barrett and Briggs on suspicion of having brooded the cargo on board the Donaldson Line steamship Omidal lying at the McLeod wharf. The detectives arrested McLean on board the ship and found three bottles of liquor in his possession. The other three men were arrested in Johnston's boarding house on the South wharf and nine bottles of liquor was found with them. It is said that the cargo stolen from the ship was bottles of liquor.

In addition to the above Mildred Boyce and Harvey Boyce were arrested on the charge of assault.

Including the thirteen common drunks arrested, twelve other persons were gathered in, making the grand total of 25 names to be registered on the police blotter.

Among the arrivals from England, yesterday was Mrs. J. McPherson, Miss G. McPherson and Master E. McPherson. Mr. H. O. R. Bealey, buyer for Brock & Patterson, Ltd., left recently on a buying trip to London and Paris in the interests of their spring millinery openings.

## GEORGE ASKS UNIONS TO CUT RED TAPE

Munitions Minister Spends Christmas Making Appeal to 3,000 Trade Unionists to Relax Rules to Permit Unskilled Labor to Work on Munitions.

London, Dec. 26.—David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, addressed a meeting of some three thousand trade union officials and work stewards at Glasgow Saturday on the imperative need of dilution of skilled by unskilled labor.

Mr. Lloyd George explained that he had come to submit proposals, on the acceptance of which depended, not only victory, but the saving of numberless lives. It was impossible for him to report through parliament to the British army that skilled workmen refused to suspend their rules to save their fellow workmen on the battlefield, he declared, and added that he refused to believe that British workmen were less patriotic than the French, whose devotion and self-sacrifice had enabled France to successfully withstand the terrible machine with the aid of German workmen, had secured a great victory over the Russians. Time was vital, and help must be given without delay, the minister of munitions said, in closing. In his appeal to the workmen, Mr. Lloyd George said:

"Either we must tell the soldiers that we are sorry we cannot get the tools to enable them to win through 1916, owing to the trade union rules which must be relaxed if they manage to hold out for another year perhaps American workmen will help us get a sufficient supply for 1917."

"Another alternative is that we might tell the Kaiser frankly that if we cannot go on. He might let us off with the annexation of Belgium, with the payment of indemnity, and with a British colony or two, but he certainly would demand that Great Britain surrender her command of the sea, and Great Britain then would be as completely at the mercy of Prussian despotism as Belgium is today."

The minister of munitions' scheme to amend the trade union regulations was proposed by a committee, including seven trade unionists.

"We do not trust trade union leaders," several voices in the audience replied.

"Whom do you trust?" Mr. Lloyd George demanded, and the voices replied: "Nobody."

Mr. Lloyd George then proceeded to explain the ministerial plan and munition factories were being established throughout the United Kingdom, and that 80,000 skilled workmen were required.

"You won't get them," some one in the meeting declared.

"I come here and face three thousand Glasgow trade unionists, the minister said, and I report to the British army that they are not going to relax their rules to save their fellow countrymen in the field."

Referring to the excellent work he had seen done by women during the last few days, Mr. Lloyd George said that if the men failed to adhere to the government's programme, there were the two alternatives already referred to. He refused to believe, he said, that skilled British workmen, whose patriotism was manifested by their readiness to give their sons to fight their country's battles, would give such an answer.

"Time is vital," he declared, "time is vital, and time is life. There have been already 540,000 casualties, including 300,000 since the agreement between the trade unions and the government in March. Further delay means further losses, and I appeal to the workmen to help thoroughly and quickly. Such aid will strengthen your claim at the end of the war, upon the government for redress of any grievances."

Near the close of his address Mr. Lloyd George said that he wondered how many people fully realized the magnitude of the war, and its tremendous losses. Sometimes, he feared, he said that they treated it as a passing shower.

## WILLIAM CONNELL DIES SUDDENLY

William Connell, a young man, died suddenly in a house at the rear of 33 Simons street. Connell had been about the streets in the early afternoon and on his return to the house he lay down on the floor and suddenly expired. The death was reported to Coroner Roberts who gave permission for the remains to be removed to O'Neill's undertaking warehouse on Mall street.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL XMAS SERVICE IN EXMOUTH ST.

The Sunday school Christmas service at Exmouth street Methodist church was largely attended, the music being of a special character and appropriate for the season. The programme was as follows:

Processional, O Come All Ye Faithful, school.

Opening chorus, Joy to The World, school.

Responsive reading, led by Gordon Stevens.

Prayer, Rev. W. G. Lane.

Chorus, Hear Them, school.

Recitation, Redburn Jack.

Solo, Holy Night, Emma Rand.

Exercise, Christmas Emblems, four girls.

Chorus, Christmas Praise, school.

Recitation, Edna Crump.

Solo, Whiter Than Snow, Ethnor Romney.

Exercise, Christmas Candles, three girls, four boys with chorus by primary departments.

Slightly wounded—Chas. Busher, formerly 33rd Battalion, Boston, Mass.

Second Battalion

Wounded—Thomas Crawford, formerly 35th Battalion, Elpino, Ont.; Albert Bennett, Cornwall, Ont.

Twentieth Battalion

Wounded—Sergeant Major William Rowe Whitten, 67 Ritchie Ave., Toronto.

Twenty-fourth Battalion

Died of wounds, Dec. 23—John J. Shannon, Leominster, Mass.

Thirty-fifth Battalion

Died, Dec. 25th—Albert Edward Hocker, England.

Forty-third Battalion

Seriously ill—Sergeant Wm. E. Booker, England.

Fifty-fourth Battalion

Died—Gordon Henry MacLeod, Scotland.

Lord Strathcona's Horse.

Officially reported missing, believed killed in action—Willis Chapman, Eastport, Maine.

## NORTH END MAN RESCUE CREW OF STEAMER SUNK BY SUBMARINE

British freighter Clan MacLeod torpedoed while in Admiralty's service and several of crew killed.

Boston, Dec. 26.—The British steamer Lord Cromer arrived yesterday from Calcutta, reporting the rescue of a boat load of men from the British freighter Clan MacLeod, which was sunk in the Mediterranean by a submarine. The Lord Cromer picked up the survivors of the MacLeod, who had been wounded by shells, and 48 members of the crew. All were landed at Algiers. Another boat, containing 20 of the MacLeod's men, was missing at the time.

Captain Goodwin told officers of the Lord Cromer that his vessel had been admiralty business and was sunk by the submarine on November 30. The Clan MacLeod had been ordered to stop, but the captain sent his ship full speed ahead, and was shelled until he signalled surrender, and ordered his men to the boats. Captain Goodwin lost his right hand and leg, while several other members of the crew were killed or seriously injured.

## ALARM OVER CONDITION OF THE KAISER

Rumors Say Illness Causing Profound Anxiety in the German Capital.

London, Dec. 26.—Alarming rumors, probably of an exaggerated nature, are being circulated in Switzerland today concerning Emperor William's illness, according to the Zurich correspondent of the Exchange Telegram Company. The rumors state, says the correspondent, that the Emperor's condition is causing profound anxiety in Berlin.

## CASUALTY LIST

First Battalion

Died of heart disease, Dec. 8.—Pte. Thomas James Clements, formerly 34th Battalion, Galt, Ont.

Slightly wounded—Chas. Busher, formerly 33rd Battalion, Boston, Mass.

Second Battalion

Wounded—Thomas Crawford, formerly 35th Battalion, Elpino, Ont.; Albert Bennett, Cornwall, Ont.

Twentieth Battalion

Wounded—Sergeant Major William Rowe Whitten, 67 Ritchie Ave., Toronto.

Twenty-fourth Battalion

Died of wounds, Dec. 23—John J. Shannon, Leominster, Mass.

Thirty-fifth Battalion

Died, Dec. 25th—Albert Edward Hocker, England.

Forty-third Battalion

Seriously ill—Sergeant Wm. E. Booker, England.

Fifty-fourth Battalion

Died—Gordon Henry MacLeod, Scotland.

Lord Strathcona's Horse.

Officially reported missing, believed killed in action—Willis Chapman, Eastport, Maine.

## NET LOSSES 200,000 A MONTH

We have, however, a considerable amount of other evidence which shows that the German losses are very much greater than they admit. Even when there is not what is now called "hard fighting," the drain on the resources of the army is very considerable. Between May 1 and June 30 four divisions under General von Flock suffered the following losses:

Killed	W'nd	Missing
15th Reserve Div 42	131	—
16th Reserve Div 230	1,020	—
15th Division ...	208	863
54th Division ...	109	531

These figures show a total of 589 killed, including nine officers, 2,511 wounded, including 25 officers, and four missing. This gives an average of 147 killed and 840 wounded during fifty days, and of 88 killed and 384 wounded per division per month. This does not include sickness statistics. During the period in question these divisions were in Champagne and took part in no serious engagements.

Mr. Belloc estimates that the German losses amount to an average of 400,000 men a month. Colonel Foyler, taking what he admits to be a minimum estimate, reckons them at 150,000 a month. The information at my disposal leads me to believe that the truth lies between these two extremes and that during the last six months of the war the German casualties have reached 300,000 a month, exactly as they did during the first six months. Not more than one-third of this total is able to return to the front, so that the German net losses amount to 200,000 a month.

The Drain Measure by Measure

At the beginning of the war Germany apart from the elements of her active army, had two distinct sources on which she could draw to obtain the men she needed to fill up the gaps and to form new units.

First, the Reserve, the Ersatz Reserve, the Landwehr, and the trained Landsturm (second ban), all of which had received a more or less thorough military training. All these men were called on during the first year of the campaign, as well as the 1914 contingent (men born in 1894), and the volunteers of the 1915 and 1916 contingents. These served to bring the units to the front, and to keep up the necessary supply of men.

Secondly, the untrained Landsturm, composed of men without military training, who had never been incorporated in the active army, either on account of the numerical limitation of a year's contingent or in view of local incapacity. The Landsturm, 25 per cent trained or untrained, was utilized for home defence, and in the case of the gravest national necessity. Already, however, the trained men of the second ban of the Landsturm—men of from 39 to 45—had been called up, and in February the German authorities considered the situation was sufficiently serious to justify them in calling up for training throughout the Empire the first ban of the Landsturm—men under 39 years of age. At the same time the 1915 contingent was called up and incorporated. The training of these recruits

## AN ESTIMATE OF THE ENEMY

Representative of the British Press with the French Armies places German casualties at 300,000 a month.

The following despatch has been received from Mr. H. Warner Allen, the representative of the British press with the French armies:

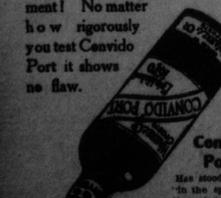
Much has been written, often of a contradictory nature, concerning the numerical strength of the German army after the wastage of over a year's warfare and the reserves on which it had to draw to fill up gaps and form new units. Information derived from a variety of sources confirms the following calculations.

During the first fifteen months of the present war—from August, 1914, to the end of October, 1915—the total German losses amounted approximately to four and a half million men on the combined fronts. Of this total three millions may be taken as definitely hors de combat (dead, prisoners or permanently disabled), while the remaining 1,500,000 may be considered as having returned to the fighting line. The German casualty lists are incomplete. We have it on the authority of prisoners that men who are slightly wounded are not included in the casualty lists. In one case a man was twice wounded and remained several weeks in hospital, and yet his name never appeared in the casualties of his regiment.

Moreover, as a general rule, these lists are delayed, and casualties do not appear in the official returns until at least two months after they have occurred. A writer in the "Kronische Zeitung" recently stated that the number of killed during the first year of the war was equal to the number of deaths over the same period in the German Empire—that is to say, about 850,000. This estimate would seem to correspond with that of the official casualty lists.

**Upside Down!**

It shows no sediment! No matter how rigorously you test Convado Port it shows no flaw.



Use Convado Port

Has stood alone in the spotlight of honor since 1879.

D. O. Roblin, Sole Agent in Canada, Toronto.

**OPERA HOUSE**

THE W. S. HARKINS PLAYERS

TONIGHT AND TUES. "OUR WIVES"

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (New Year's) NIGHTS, the Best of Old Comedies

WED. AND THURS. "THE SPY IN THE HOUSE"

SATURDAY (New Year's) MATINEE TO BE ANNOUNCED

ORCHESTRA and 1st Rows Dress Circle . . . 50c  
 Rear of Dress Circle . . . 35c  
 1st 2nd Rows Balcony . . . 25c  
 2nd 3rd Rows Balcony . . . 15c

Seats now on order at all Portlands  
 PHONE MAIN 2222

**THE BROKEN COIN**—Explosion on Shipboard

Arthur Huskins and DeWitt Cairns—15 Minutes of Song

WED. British War Play "The Campbells Are Coming" Jessie Brown or The Relief of Lukenow

St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Another of the organizations which brought Christmas cheer to many a home was the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Cathedral parish. In addition to their weekly donations the society on Thursday night distributed nearly a hundred baskets, generously filled with food and delicacies, while boys helped keep alive in many a child's heart faith in Santa Claus. For the past week the members of the society had been busy preparing baskets and as a result of the efforts Christmas Day was gladdened in some homes where otherwise the spirit of the occasion would have been lacking.

Mrs. W. W. White, who had been spending some time in England, returned home yesterday.

**THE CAMPBELLS ARE COMING**

Jessie Brown or The Relief of Lukenow

**THE BROKEN COIN**—Explosion on Shipboard

Arthur Huskins and DeWitt Cairns—15 Minutes of Song

WED. British War Play "The Campbells Are Coming" Jessie Brown or The Relief of Lukenow

**THE BROKEN COIN**—Explosion on Shipboard

Arthur Huskins and DeWitt Cairns—15 Minutes of Song

WED. British War Play "The Campbells Are Coming" Jessie Brown or The Relief of Lukenow

**THE BROKEN COIN**—Explosion on Shipboard

Arthur Huskins and DeWitt Cairns—15 Minutes of Song

WED. British War Play "The Campbells Are Coming" Jessie Brown or The Relief of Lukenow