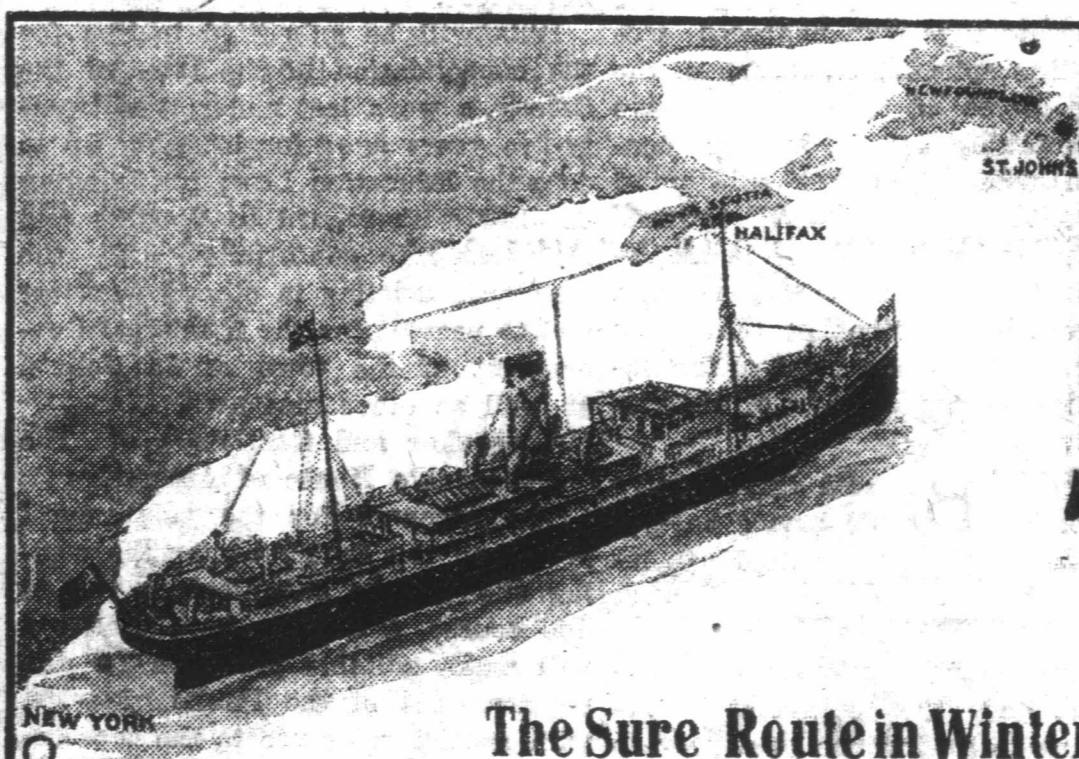


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French Retreat at Verdun Was a Marvel of Cohesion

Will Rank with Von Kluck's at the Marne and Serrail's in Serbia.—Three Critical Points in the Battle.—Germans Charged and Charged, But Couldn't Smash French Lines.

NEW YORK, March 5.—A special Paris cable to The New York Times under yesterday's date, says: "This afternoon's communique was read in the officer's ward of a Paris hospital, where I was visiting an artillery major brought in last night from the Verdun front. Apropos of the communique he gave the following interview, outlining the different phases of the battle and describing the fighting in which he participated: "That looks as if they were beaten at Verdun, anyway. They may try elsewhere, but even Germany's need for a striking success cannot make Verdun worth the lives of another quarter of a million of soldiers, and they must sacrifice that number more if they attempt to take the fortress from the south-east."
"To give you an idea of what the Woerwe mud is like, I drove a light cart a month ago to a village about a mile from the cliff east of Douaumont. The road was frightful. Before we had gone half way the car was bogged to the axles; so we walked and the car was pulled out later by a team of horses. Imagine guns and ammunition wagons in such a quagmire."
Effect of Losses.
"You must take into account also the moral effect of their losses. Even German discipline can't stand slaughter on such a scale. We reckon on their total losses at 175,000 in seven days fighting, with fully 100,000 killed. There never was a battle with such a high proportion of killed."
"So there must be a reaction. I don't expect another German move on a big scale for some time. Never mind what the military critics say. They forget the human equation: but you can't leave it out, even in the case of Germans. It all depends on how they hide their defeat from their own people. If they do that, they may produce another spasm before we fully smash them. Otherwise they might easily blow up from within, if once their masses realized what a disaster this failure really meant."
"Don't you make any mistake about that. No one who knows the magnitude of their effort can fail to appreciate the meaning of its failure. We expected a big stroke, but when it came it utterly surpassed anticipation."
"There were three critical points in the battle as I see it. The first was at the end of the opening phase, that of fighting in the outer positions from the 22nd to dawn on the 25th when we had to withdraw without losing cohesion or giving them a chance to rush us and break our line. There have been some fine retreats in this war, from Von Kluck's at the Marne to Serrail's in Serbia; but when history is written that retirement before Verdun will rank with the best of them."
"The second crisis of the battle was their success at Douaumont. Of course, as a fort, there wasn't much left after the bombardment, but the position was immensely valuable. I have not seen the fort lately, but a few months ago it was just a series of armoured tunnels. The central enceinte, where I understand, the remnant of the Brandenburgers are holding out, was quite small, just containing a central turret, armed only with mitrailleuses or small revolver cannon and a heavy armored observation post. I would have given ten years of my life to see our counter-attack that re-won the position."
"It was the same corps—the iron division—we call them—the famous 'troupe des choc,' who won the battle of Champagne."
"The Douaumont struggle which was the crux of the whole battle, really illustrates the French and German war methods, contrasted at their best."
"The Germans took the position in a typically brutal, dogmatically scientific fashion by searching artillery preparation, applied to the utmost degree, followed by massed assaults pressed home with complete disregard of sacrifice. Our charge was a triumph of the human factor, a victory of the legendary 'troupe française,' worthy of Napoleon's guardsmen. No troops in the world could have resisted it."
Desperate Attempts.
"The last critical moment was late the same night and early Sun-

day morning, when the Germans made desperate attempts to recover Douaumont by attacks first from Louvemont along the road leading up to Bras village, on the plateau, and second, by a later and less determined stab at turning Douaumont from the south by advance across the plateau near Vaux."
"We could concentrate nearly all the forts on the latter effort, which was weakened by the Germans having to climb a narrow ravine and debouch on a narrow front, affording us an easy mark; but the Bras fighting was quite a different affair and might have been very serious, if not actually critical."
"As the Germans advanced they were sheltered in the ravine from our guns on the plateau to their left and by the 'Poivre and Talou' spurs from our batteries, across the river, but it was the latter on Charney Heights that finally smashed them when they reached charging distance. I saw that myself. It was just as if the plateau edge had been mined. The explosions were so continuous that the whole section was covered with a cloud of smoke through which one saw flashes."
"On came the lines of men in which huge rents were being torn, but which always seemed to fill up again, and over everything was a shower of earth, trees and limbs of bodies flung into the air continually. They actually managed to advance some distance; then our mitrailleuses joined in, and they simply lay down in rows."
"The Germans may talk of their howitzers, but our artillery is unlimited. The gunners literally fire to an inch. At Verdun it was especially well organized. The commander is a wonder. You know him. He showed the Germans what French artillery meant at the first battle of Verdun in 1914, when he smashed a whole Bavarian division with three batteries of 'seventy-fives.'"
"He gets there because he insists on seeing everything himself—never leaves things to chance or to others. It is no exaggerating to say that he planned every round at Verdun. He is a little, slim, nervous chap with a short, square, gray beard and brown complexion. He has the habit of appearing at unexpected moments and we betide any wretched local commander who hasn't got everything just as it should be."
"It is men like him—and there are plenty of others—that will win this war for France. You know if Frenchmen are properly led they can go anywhere. That's a truism as old as Napoleon."
"The end of the war may be nearer now than most persons imagine. Anyway as regards Verdun there is no longer cause for anxiety. We have had time to bring up supplies, and reinforcements, and the more the fighting is prolonged the less chance the Germans have. Then, perhaps, when they abandon the attack, dispirited we may have something to say which the enemy may not find so easy to answer."

"Are you looking for work?" asked the farmer, eagerly.
"Yep," replied Plodding Pete. "What kind of work have you got on hand?"
"Almost any kind you want."
"Well, you ought to be ashamed of yourself, leavin' so much work undone."
AND MATES TOO.
A young lady being told at a fire to stand back or the hose would be turned on her replied:
"Oh, I don't care; they're striped on both sides anyhow."

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Italy's Adhesion Still Incomplete

Unless She Declares War Against All Enemies of Entente Powers

ROME, via Paris, Mar. 9.—The Italian Chamber of Deputies reopens to-morrow and there is keen public interest regarding the discussions which are expected to take place during the next few days.
A meeting has been held by the so-called Interventionists, or war party, which includes the majority of the Nationalist Reformist, Radical and Socialist parties for the purpose of discussing action to be made with a view of inducing the Government to increase participation in the war.
The Interventionists declare that Italy's adhesion to the London Convention, which provides against the concluding of separate peace by any of the Allies, is incomplete unless Italy declares a state of war against all the enemies of the Entente Powers.
This subject will be brought up for discussion in the Chamber, either on direct motion or during the debate on the Foreign Office budget.
It is believed that the Government is, well in control of the situation and Premier Salandra will have a large majority on the vote of confidence for which he is to ask.

Felix Diaz to Dispute Carranza

Will Lead New Revolution Against De-facto Government so Washington Hears—Has Strong Following in Southern Mexico

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Felix Diaz who has been watched for several months by Department of Justice agents because of suspected activities in violation of American neutrality, apparently has left the United States for Mexico with the intention of launching a new revolution against the Carranza de-facto government. Information reaching officials here indicates that he hopes to organize and lead the troops of his native state, Oaxaca, and such others forces in southern Mexico as he can gather about him.
Gen. Diaz left New Orleans Friday for Havana, where several Mexicans whose names have been associated with his in reports of a revolutionary movement were understood to be awaiting him. Theodoro Dehesa, a former governor of Vera Cruz, and General Aureliano Blanquet, war minister under Huerta, were reported to be among them.
Oaxaca, where Diaz is expected to launch his movement, is the only state that has held aloof during the fighting of the past two years.

Irish-Americans Set Race Right With U. S. Folk

NEW YORK, March 6.—Denouncing as "a violent attack on American neutrality" a proposed anti-British demonstration of Irishmen to be held here March 4 and 5, the executive committee of the American Irish societies, which includes the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United Irish League of America, adopted resolutions for the purpose of "settling the race right with the people of the United States."
The resolutions assert that the Irish in Ireland are better judges of their rights, policies and duties than "any number of professional Irishmen in America, or descendants of exiled Irishmen in America, whose sole idea on the Irish question is the legacy of hate inherited from the days of oppression, and who are ignorant of, or shut their minds to, the happy change that has come over the Green Isle since the rule of democracy has been substituted for that of feudalism."
"The Irishmen in Ireland are not contract-breakers," resolutions continue. "Now that Home Rule is granted them they are keeping their part of the contract. They have sent 142,000 of their sons voluntarily to the front and are adding to that force at the rate of 1,000 a week."
"The Irish in Ireland will not soon forget the fate of Belgium, nor their centuries old friendship for that distracted country of France, even if some of our long distance Irish patriots on this side of the Atlantic choose to ignore them."
Thirty-six Irish societies of New York are represented.

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