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HEART INTEREST STORIES FROM  
TRENCH AND FIELD OF BATTLE

Shells Fail to Disturb the  
French Villagers—The  
Fighting at Suez.

**B**y mail and in despatches from old world newspapers there have arrived in Canada human interest stories of the great war in Europe. Some of the latest and best are given: Major O. S. Watkins, of the Canadian contingent, in a letter received from him from a point in North France, says: "In the village from which I write, a shell burst, killing nine soldiers and the village priest. Most of the inhabitants have returned to their homes, and are going about their ordinary tasks as if war was far from them, apparently free of the enemy, which, as the crow flies, is not more than a mile or so away, and not greatly disturbed even when shells burst in the main square of this little town."



CONVALESCENT SOLDIER SHOW-  
ING PART OF FIELD WHERE  
HE WAS WOUNDED.

ambulance and such companies as are held in reserve. It is from this point that the wagons are sent out at night with ration, and it is from this point that the ambulance wagons fly to and from between the "regimental aid posts," bringing in their suffering loads of sick and wounded men. I dwell in comparative safety, but always within sound of rifle fire and machine guns in the trenches. Over us from time to time shriek the shells from our own big guns, winging their way to spread destruction and death in the enemy's lines. In our midst occasionally the Germans burst their shrapnel or their "coal boxes."

## A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

"I am now permitted to state that the artillery attached to the East Lancashire division of territorials was sharply engaged on the Suez Canal during the fighting of Feb. 3 and Feb. 4," writes an English correspondent.

"The behavior of the men under fire and the skill with which the guns were served were considered worthy of very high praise."

"An officer controlling the fire of one of the territorial batteries in these engagements displayed conspicuous gallantry. In order to find the ranges with the greatest possible accuracy he climbed a date palm tree near by and remained there an hour while the position was bombarded



RUSSIAN WAR PRISONERS.

with shrapnel. When the fire became too hot he took up a fresh position in another palm tree and remained there till the close of the battle."

"One territorial gunner had a remarkable escape. A shrapnel bullet passed down the barrel of the gun he was serving and flattened itself against a part of the breech mechanism without doing any damage either to man or gun."

## "HOBSON'S CHOICE."

Alfred Capps, co-editor of The Figaro, in a lecture on "The Press During the War," gave the following as a typical dialogue between the censor and an editor over the telephone:

About midnight the censor said: "It would be very nice of you, mon-

Alfred Capps Tells How  
the Censor Works—The  
Welsh Anthem at Front.

seigneur, to suppress these few lines. I ask you of permission to know what would happen 'if I refuse.' "If you refuse," answered the censor, "I shall be obliged to my deepest mortification, to interrupt your publication."

## A TICKLISH MOMENT.

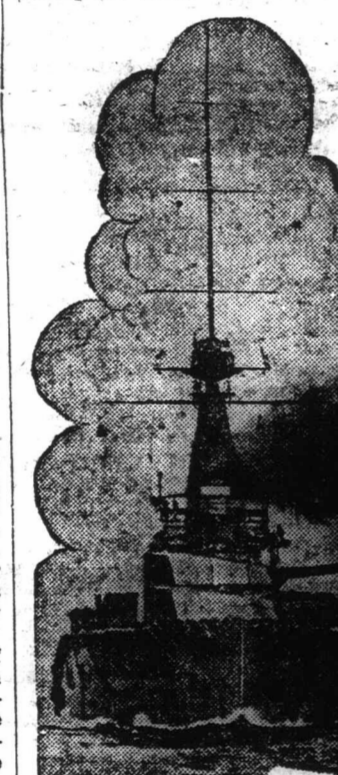
It is Lieut. Harman, of the Royal Field Artillery, who tells how the guns of his battery were saved during a ticklish moment. The Germans had surrounded the battery, but the artillerymen held them off for six hours, retiring slowly as they did so. Unfortunately they got into a very narrow lane, where, from the steep banks, they were fired on, ambushed at a range of about twenty yards.

The lane was far too steep and narrow to turn round, but the gunners with their rifles drove the Germans back. The battery, however, seemed to be caught in a trap, but the men determined to save the guns. They built barricades, and when night fell reconnoitred the German position. It was during that reconnoissance that the guns of the darkness saw a value, and these men hurried to the relief of the beleaguered artillery.

## "HEN WLAD FY NHADAU!"

An English soldier writing from the trenches near Dixmude says: "It was a miserable night. A heavy rain had filled the trenches. Suddenly out of the darkness came a voice. It was a Welsh ballad called 'Hob y Deri Dando,' sung in a fine tenor voice. It was the cheeriest sound I ever heard. At the end of a round of applause came down the trenches. But imagine our surprise to hear clapping and call for more in good English from the German trenches. Thereupon the Welshman gave 'Mintir Gwent.'"

"Meantime we realized that not a shot had been fired by either side during the song. We had forgotten



H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH.

all about war. So a bargain was struck with the Germans that if the Welshman would give us another song neither side would fire any more until daylight."

"The third song was 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.' It was perhaps the first time the Welsh national anthem was ever heard on this dismal Flemish morass."

## HUNS DRANK 800 BOTTLES.

In a letter Lieut. Eric Pepler of the 3rd company Canadian Field Engineers describes in humorous vein the trouble he had in making an elderly dame allow him to stable their horses in one of her barns. Eventually he had to order the men to clear the place out and commandeer the place. He stated that he has been separated from Capt. T. C. Irving and that Major Lindsay is laid up in England.

"Where we're living is called the 'Petite Chateau' and it is very comfortably fitted up." He continues: "The German artillery captain lived here when they marched through before, and, incidentally, he and his own drank 800 bottles of champagne from the wine cellars of this house. Being mess secretary, this grieves me very much, as I spent a good part of this morning trying to buy some French beer and a table cloth. It was hard to find the cloth for the madame that I went to said that she used her last the other day when King George passed through."

## Girl Honored by Czar.

It is semi-officially confirmed that the Czar has conferred the Cross of St. George upon a girl warrior named Tichinena for conspicuous bravery during the fighting in the trenches against an ordinary soldier. Tichinena was a schoolgirl at Kiev when the war broke out.

## Switzerland and the War.

Since the war Switzerland has spent over \$50,000,000 on her army, and has lost several millions sterling on her exports, and more millions on her factories and home industries.

## GERMANY'S METAL FAMINE.

She is Now Using Brass Doors as Ammunition.

Will the copper famine seal Germany's fate? The question is one which may well cause our foes some perturbation, for without copper there can be no ammunition, and without ammunition there can be no war. That is why England and France have taken such determined steps to prevent any supplies of this metal reaching Germany and Austria. Once their supplies of copper are exhausted the fate of both countries seems certain.

Copper is the essential metal in the manufacture of munitions of war. Neither cartridge nor shell can be made without it. Time after time experiments have been made with other metals, but without any marked success. Aluminum is the nearest approach to copper for war material, but it cannot be depended upon. The alloy of zinc and copper from which our cartridges and shells are drawn is so thin that the metal must be very pure to insure against flaws. Then there are the cartridge cases for quick-firing guns. These also require the highest quality of copper and zinc, since they must be exact to the 500th part of an inch, and gas-tight. On shells there are copper bands encircling the shell to ensure close fitting in the rifling, pure copper being the only substance known that gives satisfactory results.

The fact that the price of copper in Germany has increased 200 per cent. since the commencement of the war is striking evidence of the shortage of this precious metal. At the lowest estimate it is reckoned that German troops fire 26,000,000 shots every twenty-four hours, the total weight of brass necessary for this daily rifle fire being roughly 305 tons. If we calculate, says the London Times, Maxim gun fire at 10 per cent. of the rifle-fire, we have: rifles, 305 tons; Maxim guns, roughly 30 tons; making a total of 335 tons.

To this total must be added copper in regard to shells, amounting, according to the authority already mentioned, to 105 tons a day. This brings the total up to 440 tons. Copper in the brass used by Germany and Austria-Hungary forms 72 per cent. of this metal, so that the total need of copper in the above-mentioned weight of brass is about 320 tons per day, or nearly 120,000 tons a year.

## TREATED LIKE DOGS.

German Soldiers' Letters Describe Horrible Life in Trenches.

The Paris Figaro publishes two letters by German soldiers to their families at the beginning of the war. In the first one the writer says: "I am quite shattered and can hardly carry my pack. If I die it will be a miserable death, for no one here cares what happens to me. 'The situation here is worse than in Russia, and what the newspapers say is untrue. We are treated like dogs and are sent like sheep to the slaughter.'"

"The French guns speak so that the very earth trembles, while our artillery hardly fires a few shells and we are forbidden to fire our rifles. 'Wherever one looks one sees only dead and wounded. The post they tell me, forwards nothing, so that no information should leak out. The men get out of this alive will be lucky and will have something to thank God for. This is a fight to a finish and it is impossible to tell you all I see.'"

The second letter runs as follows: "The first line companies every day have six or eight men killed and 20 to 30 wounded. The enemy has pushed forward his saps, in which he has placed mines to blow up our trenches. Hand grenades and bomb throwers, such are the terrible weapons to which recourse is made."

"The bottom of the trenches is covered with a layer of mud 5 or 6 inches thick, in which lie the bodies of those killed during the preceding days. Here and there one sees an arm or a leg stick out. A horrible stench pervades the trenches. In the rear corpses lie piled up."

"Holes made by shells are of every imaginable size. Some are so big that a carriage could stand in them. I should never have believed I could endure all this, 'till one gets accustomed to everything.'"

## Holding Bit of the Line.

"My brigade is holding a bit of the line—about 2,000 or 2,500 yards," writes Brigadier-General M. S. Mercer, of the Queen's Own, commanding officer of the 1st Brigade, to Carl Ahrens, the artist, residing at Lambton Mills. "The times at a point are only some 65 yards apart," he continues, "at another 85 yards, average distance from 200 to 350 yards, and this sort of thing prevails for hundreds of miles."

"Our men work like beavers to make trenches safer and dug-outs more comfortable. The country is very level and completely water-logged, so that drainage is next to impossible. All the little towns around here are in ruins, and many deserted. All branches of the service are working admirably."

## Their Money Is Safe.

According to the German press, associations have already been formed in Hanover and Hamburg, and will shortly be founded in 150 other places, to collect money which will be expended in gifts for German troops "as soon as it is officially announced that either German troops have occupied English soil or have achieved the overthrow of England."

## Switzerland and the War.

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## LEADERS IN THE WAR.

Strict Censorship Has Hindered Knowledge of Generals.

One of the remarkable results of the strict censorship has been the anonymity of the lesser generals of the war, who undoubtedly have come into prominence during the past four months on the greatest battlefields of all history. It is true that Gen. Sir John French has mentioned a number of British commanders who have assisted him in Northern France and in Belgium, but if we except the tribute to Gen. Smith-Dorrien for his retreat from Mons, the commendation has been of the nature of praise rather than generally distributed.

The only German name that has been brought to the fore has been that of Von Hindenburg, on whom has devolved the difficult and important task of resisting the Russian onslaught in the east. Von Kluck has disappeared from the headlines, and the world does not know whether his advance on Paris and his subsequent retreat to the Aisne have gained him places among the immortals or not. Little more has been heard of Von Bulow and Von Elnem. The Crown Prince of the German empire, the Duke of Wurtemberg have frequently been mentioned, but there has been a constant suspicion that these royal names are used in lieu of those more closely identified with German strategy.

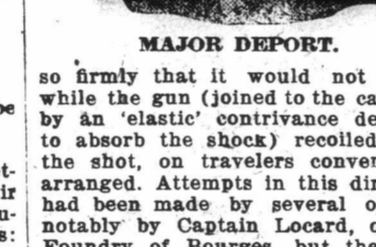
In the early days of the war Gen. Paul Pau was mentioned so frequently that his ubiquity, according to war correspondents, was equal to that of the German Crown Prince. But Pau disappeared several weeks ago from the French despatches and in his place the recent French communiques mention a number of generals without investing any with undying fame. The most prominent of Gen. Joffre's assistants is Gen. Foch. But to the cursory reader there is but one French name that stands out, that of Joffre, upon whom has rested the responsibility of the general strategy of the allied forces fighting the Kaiser's western army.

The Grand Duke Nicholas emerges in bold relief from the many Russian generals engaged. It is safe to say that the ordinary man could not name one of the Austro-Hungarian generals who have fought so valiantly in Galicia.

Deport Reached Fame  
By Inventing French  
75-Millimetre Gun

THE glory of the French artillery is the "75" field-gun whose very existence was a jealously guarded secret until war and success made concealment no longer possible. Twenty years ago French artillery experts set to work to produce a gun which could duplicate on land the rapidity and accuracy of the "Comet" and the "Hotchkiss" naval guns. From the pages of The London Illustrated News we learn the problem that presented itself to the French artillery officers for solution:

"It became eminently desirable to produce, not a gun which would remain immobile during the discharge (a thing mechanically impossible), but one which would return to its original position after each shot had been fired. Thus re-sighting and readjusting not being called for, the rate of fire would be very greatly increased. The problem was how to construct a gun-carriage which could be fixed to the ground



MAJOR DEPORT.

so firmly that it would not move while the gun (joined to the carriage by an 'elastic' contrivance destined to absorb the shock) recoiled after the shot, on travelers conveniently arranged. Attempts in this direction had been made by several officers, notably by Captain Locard, of the Foundry of Bourges, but they had failed as far as field-weapons were concerned."

While the solution of the problem seemed easy enough in theory, it still remained to be seen whether it could be accomplished in practice, and, strangely enough, the first hint came from the Germans. And this is how it happened:

"General Mathieu, then head of the artillery at the French War Office, came to know that Herr Haussner, a German engineer and a very able man, had submitted to Krupp a model of a gun with a 'long recoil,' or rather, with a 'recoil of the gun on the gun-carriage,' as the German experts would say. It was understood further that, after experiments, Krupp had undertaken the construction of the new weapon. The general, a good judge of a man, sent for Major Deport, then head of the workshops at Puteaux, and asked him to submit to him whether he, too, could not invent a gun based on the principle of the 'long recoil.' Major Deport knew his subject thoroughly, and, after reflection, answered that he was ready to solve the problem. He set to work, and in 1904 he submitted to General Mercier, the Minister of War, a field-gun able to fire twenty-five rounds a minute. Its accuracy was perfect, and its stability was such that the two principal gunners could remain seated on the gun-carriage during firing. Thus the '75' was born; and was everything the most exacting gunner could desire."

Perhaps the most amusing thing in connection with the birth of the '75' was the fact that the information about Krupp's which was responsible for the efforts of Major Deport turned out to be entirely inaccurate. But, adds The Illustrated London News:

"Inaccurate information had particularly happy results for France, by putting Major Deport on the road to his great discovery. The major was then a lieutenant-colonel too late in life to hope to rise to a much higher rank, and so decided to retire and to accept a position in the Compagnie des Forges, at Châtillon-Comptegny, where, to this day, he controls the artillery supply."

## Cossacks' Superstitions.

Cossacks cannot be got to surrender. They have martial superstition about keeping their horses and lances, preferring death to abandoning either. Before the Grand Duke Nicholas' armies reached the Warthe at Kolo the Cossack Nikita Tchumakoff, with three comrades, was captured, falling into an ambush. Three days later Tchumakoff turned up from the tent in which he slept. He had two bullets through his clothes and one through his thigh. He was, however, without horse or weapons, had crept during darkness from the tent in which he slept. He had safely past the German sentries. Then he reflected that it was a shame for a Cossack to lose his horse and lance. So he crept back, facing the risk of being killed or recaptured. He recovered both horse and lance and galloped away. The horse was killed by a shot from an outpost. From his lance Tchumakoff would not be parted.

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COUNTESS SZECHENYI.

work among the wounded Austrian soldiers in the field.

A Dr. McDonald, who is just home from Budapest, gives a slightly different version which, in view of the known proclivities of yellow correspondents, is probably nearer the truth. He describes the fearful conditions of disease and filth in the army hospitals of Budapest and concludes:

## Three Hungarian Countesses.

"Three Hungarian countesses, Szechenyi, Sigray and Zechl, all American girls, came to the hospital at Budapest and volunteered their services. They were dressed in silk and had made with them. I told them they did not know what they were up against, and the authorities sent them away."

"In Budapest alone there 70,000 wounded soldiers, 20,000 of whom are named for life."

Dr. McDonald in August went to the war zone, heading the third unit of the American Red Cross.

## Biographies of Pigeons.

Having received orders from the German government-general of Belgium to keep a close watch on carrier pigeons, a zealous German commandant in a commune near Brussels ordered the civil authorities to provide a census of all the pigeons in that district.

The burgomaster, with a sense of humor, complied not only with the number of birds, but he provided each with a biography, which was followed with accident and mishap reports. The names read like a roster of the German imperial family and the leading army officers.

This particular commune is noted for the number of its pigeons, and the commandant was soon snowed under with reports which religiously chronicled the condition and movement of the birds. He declined, however, to rescind the order.

## To Save Food.

The rich of Germany are leaving their country in large numbers, responding to a Government appeal that there shall be fewer people to feed.

## JELICOE INSISTED UPON GOOD GUNNERY

Would Have Nothing But Very Best Instruments and Accurate Excellent Marksmanship

Much has been said about the improvement of good shooting in the British navy, and in this connection considerable praise is due to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. Without his help as a writer in The United Service Journal once remarked—the good work fostered by Admiral Sir Jellicoe would have been severely handicapped—in fact, impossible; for the then director of naval ordnance provided himself a man of original thought and prompt action and one of the most capable gunnery experts in the Royal Navy.

During the time he was in command of the Drake he turned it into one of the best shooting ships in the navy, and while he was at the Admiralty as Director of Naval Ordnance Captain Jellicoe did all that was possible to insure the guns mounted in ships in the first fighting line being fitted with the most up-to-date day and night sights, as well as to install a fire control set of instruments in each ship for "spotting," and controlling the long range shooting. The fittings of the guns and ordinary appliances generally were also greatly improved during the tenure of his appointment.

His selection for the supreme command of the home fleet was no accident of a romance. To "lead no small share in shaping the instrument of which he was given command, and his chief of staff, who was, of course, chosen by himself, is another distinguished officer, who happened to be his brother-in-law. Sir John Jellicoe and Rear-Admiral Madden served together at the Admiralty on more than one occasion, both indeed having been sea lords, and they both married daughters of Sir Charles Cayzer.

## A Man to Command.

In appearance Sir John is small of stature, but a man in every sense of the word. He has an iron nerve, notwithstanding one or two terrible experiences which would have shattered and really did shatter the nerves and health of others associated with him.

One who knows him well said: "A man below middle height, alert, confident in himself; not the confidence of the overture, but that of a real leader of men, a man whose features would have been unpleasantly hard but for a lurking humor of the eyes, and for certain humorous lines about the mouth that on occasions could take the likeness of a steel trap; a man to trust instinctively and one to like from the beginning."

He is a clean shaven, keen eyed man of the sea, alert, vigorous and decisive. There is nothing spectacular about his life of warfare. Strike, strike hard, and strike again, has always been his plan of campaign, and he has known more than once what it is to be face to face with death.

An insight into his character and indomitable courage is to be found in a reference to him by one who was with him when he was wounded—it was thought mortally—during the disastrous retirement on Tientsin. "I was with him as he lay in a cave, of a native house of every kind, and he was to be out of the reach of the Chinese fire, and I recall the steadfast courage of the man when he knew that he had but the very slenderest hope of life. It was practically impossible that he could recover, and the flagstaff's doctor, but Jellicoe's indomitable pluck was a factor that had still to be reckoned with. As soon as he could be safely moved we placed him in a small native boat in charge of his own coxswain."

## Wanted the Stern Fast.

"It was the next day, as I remember, that the latter came with a message that Captain Jellicoe would like to see me in the boat. Of course, I went down immediately and found him suffering severe pain from his wound, pain made worse by the misery of the surroundings and by the uncertainty of everything."

"He wanted to know what I thought of things. Foolishly, perhaps, I tried to make the best of them, and told him that I thought we were doing very well and that there was no doubt at all of our ability to cut our way back to Tientsin, or even to the coast, supposing the foreign settlements to have fallen. I don't think I shall ever forget the contemptuous flash of the eyes he turned on me or the impatient remark: 'Tell me the truth, don't lie.'"

"I had thought to lessen the anxiety I knew he must have been feeling, but if I had known him as I learned to later on I should have told him the plain truth straight out. He thanked me and, indicating his wound, said with his eyes, remarked, 'Hard luck, just now.' That was all, but it was characteristic of the man himself."

## Kitchener as Stage Manager.

Lord Kitchener once assisted at a Drury Lane rehearsal in correcting the military evolutions performed on the stage.

## The Speed of Big Shells.

It takes twelve seconds for the projectile of a 12-inch naval gun to reach its point of impact when firing at a range of five miles.

## King Albert always refers to his fellow countrymen as "my subjects."

During a trial for treason the jury is not allowed to separate.

## For every British horse sacrificed in the war the Germans have lost four.

The first steamship crossed the Atlantic in 1833.

## A colonel in the Household Cavalry receives \$5.00 daily pay.

Luxemburg covers 1,000 square miles, and has a population of 260,000.

## Prussia in normal seasons produces slightly more oats than does Canada.

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