

# The BATTLE of YPRES

## A Graphic Account---Decisive British Stroke.

Mr. Will Irwin, the well-known American Journalist, contributes to the New York Tribune the first complete account of the famous battle of Ypres--an account reproduced in the Daily Mail of yesterday. The Battle of Ypres Mr. Irwin describes as "a decisive action, perhaps the really decisive action of the war," for it closed the last gap in the combined defensive operations of the Western Allies, made impossible any further German move on Paris or any move to take the French in the rear, and sealed the road to Calais. It was also an action which will stand as one of the most glorious achievements in British military annals, for though more English troops were engaged here, than in any previous battle of the Empire, they numbered only 120,000, against 600,000 of the Germans, which is more than were engaged in the whole Franco-Prussian War. For its knowledge of this great struggle the public has hitherto had to rely upon the technical narrative contained in the despatches of Sir John French. Mr. Irwin now supplies a highly graphic and easily comprehensible record of the proceedings of those eventful days.

He first recounts the main stages of the enemy's advance through Belgium into France until his cavalry outposts were almost at the gates of Paris, of the recovery of the Allies, profiting by von Kluck's sudden march eastward away from Paris so that the Crown Prince's army might have the honour of entering the French capital from the northeast, and of the hurried retreat of the Germans until they found safety behind the line of the Aisne. It was soon after that--early in October--that the whole of the English Army was moved over toward Calais and that the line of battle began to lengthen ever northward and westward, finally to reach the sea. On October 11, however, the 50-mile gap between Lille and the coast lay open, and with the fall of Antwerp the Germans swept towards it, driving before them the Belgian Army and General Rawlinson's division, which had arrived too late to save the fortress.

### THE GAP IN THE LINE.

The Belgians took up a final position on the River Yser, while General Rawlinson, roughly joining forces with them on the right, extended his line towards Ypres. About the same time the French gave up Lille and then La Bassée and threw into the gap their Territorials in an almost desperate effort to stay the onrush of the far heavier German masses. The line was bending dangerously and the breaking point was near, when, on October 11, the first of the main British force detraind at St. Omer.

Mr. Irwin proceeds:

By the 19th the English Army was fighting a scattering, confused-looking battle whose focus was Ypres, the beautiful old capital of French Flanders. By that time, also, the Belgian army, which had been given a brief breathing-spell by the Germans, was desperately engaged in holding the Yser at the point of the line nearest the sea. The bridge-head of the Yser the critical point for them, had been lost and won back, falling back on

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**T. J. Edens**

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"The efficiency of any drug" says Dr. C. P. Roberts, "is known to be in its results obtained from its use. If we are able to control pain and disease by means of any preparation, we certainly are warranted in its use. One of the principal symptoms of disease is pain, and this is what the patient most often complains to his doctor to relieve his pain. If we can arrest this promptly, our patient is most liable to recover from the other remedies which will not effect a permanent cure. One remedy which I have used largely in my practice is Anti-Kamnia Tablets. Many and varied are their uses. I have put them to the test on many headaches and have never been disappointed. I found them especially valuable for headaches of maxillary origin, when operative treatment was being taken. They appear to prevent the bad after-effects of the cocaine. Anti-Kamnia Tablets are also excellent for the headache from improper dilation of the head-veins of a neuralgic origin, and especially for women subjected to pain of menstruation. Two Anti-Kamnia Tablets give quick relief, and are as safe as a home remedy to go about as usual. These tablets may be obtained at all drug stores. Ask for A.K. Tablets. They are also unexcelled for headaches, neuralgia and all pains."

**SIR JOHN FRENCH'S STRATEGY.**  
Meantime Sir John French, even before the whole Army was detraind, had swung his main forces through a series of manoeuvres which, I suspect, the soldier of the future will study for their brilliance and for their defence military tradition.

In all this time, bleeding provinces of fire and death the action rose to a separate battle which would have been famous in old wars. The six-tonne-quinte guns of the French artillery support, the rifles and bayonets of the English Third Corps took the hill of Mont des Cats; did it, too, against odds. That same Third Corps--always the attacking force, and most always against odds--went forward in a week to Armentieres, a gain of 20 miles or more. The Second Corps, fighting on the right of the Third, made a narrower turn. It pivoted on La Bassée; its left went forward 10 miles to a point where it was in touch with the Third.

So as the critical 20th approached the main force under Sir John French extended for some 25 miles from before La Bassée to a point beyond Ypres; and now the German resistance stiffened and held. Neither the English nor the French could drive much farther. But the line was established. And it was a straight line, stretching from the right of the French out and touched that Franco-Belgian defence which ran from the Forest of Houthoulst to the sea.

That extreme left of the British line--the point where it joined the line of the Allies--was held by Rawlinson's harassed, over-stretched division. And just then more Germans and still more Germans were rushing down the Belgian railroads. They had to rain down on us everywhere," a spectator has said; but most of all they rained on that weak point to the left.

Now French, "violating every rule of war," had not only drawn the lines of his important Second and Third Corps very thin, but he had shot his last bolt of reserves. All the reinforcements available from England had been used up in filling the gaps where the English troops, hurrying up from Marseilles, had been rushed to the front. The day when they arrived the English forces were hanging on by their eyelids. Someone, I am told, looked back from a trench and saw a solitary outpost, a French trench, a lone figure of a deserter, very startling in the green, peaceful French landscape riding over a hill. Back of him nodded the turbaned, cloaked figure of the desert, very startling in the green, peaceful French landscape riding over a hill.

The English had merely held--technically--really, they had won the climactic action in that long battle which must determine the future course of this war. The cost of it was no less than the cost of other famous victories. One regiment went into that campaign 1,100 strong. They came out but 75. And most of their lost thousand went down that day before Ypres. Another regiment took 1,250 men to the western front. They had fewer than 300 when the Battle of Ypres was won. Most of them, too, fell in this action of October 31.

In old wars a battle lasted a day or two; victory came in an hour, and it was all over but the pursuit; the courier went forward to the capital; there was illumination and bell-ringing. In this new war no one, not even the command, knew the decisive moment; the day of real victories blends into days where the fight still goes on to none of these months, then battles in days and nights. The attacks and counter-attacks, the digging in, went on. French troops began arriving in fits and starts to strengthen and make sure the line.

Nevertheless the Germans had one more great assault on their program. Ypres is the old historic capital of French Flanders; and the British observers noted a curious fact about the operations against Ypres. However heavy the German bombardment, the famous old Cloth Hall, the most beautiful building of its kind in Flanders, went unscathed by shells. It was saved, we know now, for a particular purpose. Kaiser Wilhelm himself was moving forward with a special force to a special assault which should finally and definitely break the Allied line at Ypres. To do this was to clear Flanders of the Allies; and then, as by custom he might, he intended to annex Belgium in the Cloth Hall of Ypres. He came with his own Prussian Guard; it was that Guard which, on the 15th, led another terrible massed attack. It was no less vigorous than the attack of the 31st; but the English, reinforced now by the French, met it better.

Again the dense masses poured in; again the very officers fired until their rifles grew too hot to hold. When, that night, the strength of the German attack was spent, the better part of the Prussian Guard lay dead in a wood-lay, at some places, in ranks eight deep. The second and severest climax was past. A fortnight more, and the line from La Bassée to the sea had been flocked as thoroughly as the line from Switzerland to La Bassée. It had cost England 50,000 men out of 120,000 engaged--a proportion of loss greater than any previous war ever knew. It had cost the French and Belgians 70,000. It probably cost the Germans 375,000. That is a half million in all. The American Civil War has been called the most terrible in modern history. In this one long battle Europe lost as many men as the North lost in the whole Civil War.

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"That is not wise. Do as I did and you will probably be cured in a short time. I used Zylex and Zylex Soap with it and my Eczema began to improve at once. A couple of boxes cured me. You can get Zylex at your druggist's."

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Mr. Jack Rossley will open his First End Theatre on Easter Monday with everything new but the name. The Rossleys, themselves performers of repute, have traveled the roads all over the world where vaudeville existed. They both thoroughly understand their business and have given us some of our most entertaining nights in the past. Mr. Jack Rossley has engaged high class artists to open on Good Monday. Through his classes he could see the close-linked quadruple ranks of German infantry attacking everywhere. And everywhere the English were fighting valiantly, but without method. They were in it to the last man--even the British allies. The Indian troops, hurried up from Marseilles, had been rushed to the front. The day when they arrived the English forces were hanging on by their eyelids. Someone, I am told, looked back from a trench and saw a solitary outpost, a French trench, a lone figure of a deserter, very startling in the green, peaceful French landscape riding over a hill. Back of him nodded the turbaned, cloaked figure of the deserter, very startling in the green, peaceful French landscape riding over a hill.

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In bottles only--of all good dealers.  
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