

# SUPREME STRUGGLE ON WEST

Where the Belgian Army, Supported by the Allies, is Successfully Resisting the Germans

## BOTH SIDES GET REINFORCEMENTS

German Attempts to Break French Line to the South Are Unavailing—Allies Report Progress

London, Oct. 21.—Fighting of a most desperate character is in progress in west Flanders and northwest France. The Belgian army, supported by the Allies, is holding stubbornly to the line of the River Yser, despite determined German attacks, and has thus far succeeded in bringing to a halt the advance of the invaders along the coast.

This is announced in a French official communication issued last evening, and is admitted in the report of the German general headquarters, which says the fighting has been going on since Sunday, in the vicinity of Neuport, which stands at the crossing of the River near the sea.

Try to Relieve Lille  
A little further to the south the Allies are making an attempt to advance toward Lille, for the relief of that city, which has been in German hands for some time, and are also pushing on to the north and south of Arras.

To the southward at the bend of the line the Germans continue to make furious, but unavailing attempts to break through the French lines.

In the East, along the Meuse, the Germans have, according to a French account, essayed in vain to try and recapture the French troops who have debouched along that territory, in which Camp des Romains, now in the hands of the Germans, is situated, in an attempt to cut out that portion of the German Army which is thrust towards St. Mihiel.

Detailed Progress  
Generally speaking the French claim to have made some detailed progress on various points of the front. Paris reports the Allies to have destroyed 15 German machine guns, two of which were armored, near Lebasse, and a battery of German heavy artillery in invasions of St. Mihiel.

## GERMAN PAINTS DREAR PICTURE

Letter Found on a Prisoner Speaks of "Germany's Last Hope"

Paris, Oct. 21.—An official communication issued by the War Office says the following are extracts from a letter found on a German prisoner and dated Dusseldorf, Oct. 4th: "With us officers and soldiers are becoming rarer; we have no more men than are adequate. Volunteers and men of the Landwehr are all we have today. If you saw these soldiers you would turn your head.

Everybody is being taken—it is Germany's last hope. All the aged men are becoming soldiers.

## ORDERS GERMAN OUT OF BRIGHTON

London, Oct. 21.—The Chief Constable of Brighton has ordered all German and Austrian subjects to leave that town within the next few days. No exceptions will be made in the order.

Brighton has a large Colony of foreigners and many of the hotels there are either owned by foreigners, or their staffs are made up of them.

## BRUGES TAKEN BY THE ALLIES

Dunkirk, Oct. 21.—The newspaper Nord Maritime says the Allies have driven five thousand Germans out of Bruges and that the Allies are now in possession of the city.

## CATTARO STILL BEING BOMBARDED

Rome, Oct. 21.—Late news from the Adriatic is to the effect that the bombardment of Cattaro, Dalmatia, continues with great violence.

# BRITISH NAVAL GUNNERY ASTOUNDED THE GERMANS

Shooting of the Charybdis Completely Outclassed That of the German Vinetta

## BRITISH MADE 90 P.C. OF HITS

While the Vinetta Only Scored 30—Interesting Narrative of an Eye-Witness

(By J. E. MILLS.)

PROPOS of the present conflict between the Allies and Germany the following story, by an eye-witness, of a small action, during the war between England and Germany, one the one hand, and Venezuela on the other, will be of timely import.

"I was one of the crew of H.M.S. Charybdis, stationed in Newfoundland waters during the summer months and in the West Indies during the winter.

"On leaving St. John's in November, 1902, we heard rumours of trouble with Venezuela, and dame razor had it that we of the Charybdis were likely to see some active work.

Pleased at the Prospect  
"Now there is nothing more dear to the heart of the average blue jacket than the prospect of 'getting at the enemy.' So it was with merry hearts that we left Halifax, N.S., early in December, bound to Trinidad, the most southerly of British possessions in the West Indies, and the nearest to Venezuela, for Trinidad which was to be the headquarters of the fleet operating against Castro, who was subsequently driven from his home to seek refuge in a foreign land.

"We arrived at Trinidad in about a week, and Commodore Montgomery, who had been placed in command of operations, after a consultation with the captains of the other ships, distributed the fleet, to blockade the principal forts of the enemy, and to seize the Customs' Houses, thereby thereby holding their finances in our hands, which it was calculated would compel them to capitulate.

Shipping Seized  
In addition to this all their shipping was seized and taken to Port of Spain, the Capital of Trinidad. This included two or three ancient gun-boats and converted cruisers.

Things were going fairly quiet and smooth, until about the middle of January, 1903, we were lying at the port of La Guyra and had for company the German Commodore's ship Vinetta (Germany had declared war in conjunction with England), when we got news that an English steamer had been held up at Porto Cabello, ninety miles to the eastward, and where we had no ship stationed.

Commodore Montgomery immediately invited the German Commodore on board for a confab, the outcome of which was that the two ships should proceed with all haste to Porto Cabello to ascertain the facts and to release the steamer.

Woke Them Up  
We left La Guyra at 9.30 p.m. and arrived at Porto Cabello at daybreak the following morning. The appearance of two warships in their harbor had the effect of awaking the whole town out of their slumbers, and we soon saw the wharves and quays lined with people to view the foreign monsters who had come so early to pay them a visit.

"The steamer, which turned out to be the Topaze, of London, was lying at the principal wharf securely moored head and stern, and our first move was to despatch two armed boats to release her, and as she fell off the boats took her in tow, out clear of the town, where she soon got up steam, and laid off a distance, at the request of the Commodore, to watch the fun which was sure to happen later in the day.

Officials Came Off  
"A message was sent to the chief officials of the town, and about 10.30 a boat was seen leaving the shore and heading for our ship. Our Commodore signalled the German Commodore to come on board and on his arrival the two descended to the waiting boat alongside. Of course we all rushed to the ships side to see what would transpire, but beyond a considerable amount of gesticulating on the part of the shore officials and a determined attitude on the part of the two Commodores, we could learn very little of what was going on. We subsequently learnt that the result of the confab in the boat was an ultimatum in the following terms: "That recompense be given first for the steamships owners, second for the cargo, which had been removed, and third for the officers and men. We did not get the amount, but whatever it was, it had to be on board the Charybdis

by 5 o'clock that evening, in default of which the two ships would proceed to bombard the place."

Clear For Action  
"We went to dinner as usual at 12 midday, and at 1.30 p.m. the order was given to 'clear for action.' This order was rapidly carried out, and an extra supply of ammunition was got up from the magazines, and placed convenient to the guns.

"The remainder of the afternoon was spent in idleness by the crew, till 4.30 when the order was passed for the hands to get into fighting rig, which was given out as flannel shirts, serge trousers and straw hats. At 4.45, by arrangement with the Vinetta, a Red Burgee was hoisted to the yard arm with the understanding that if the required compensation was not on board by 5.30 p.m. the Burgee would be hauled down as a signal to commence firing.

Reply Didn't Come  
"At 5 o'clock there was no sign of any reply forthcoming from shore, and at the order of the Commodore the Burgee was hauled down, and the bugles sounded action.

"By arrangement, we, the Charybdis, were to attack a large fort lying on a sandy beach to the eastward of the town, and the Vinetta would attack a large round fort at the right back of the town; this fort was situated on a hill and had very much the appearance of a huge Martello tower, with a rounded roof.

"Within a few minutes of the order our guns were belching forth destruction, the din was terrible, yet we were only using the guns from the port side; our starboard battery was silent, waiting for orders.

Did Poor Work  
Soon it was seen that the Vinetta was doing but poor execution, scarcely a shot was striking the object, and beside this they were very slow in their delivery.

"Our Commodore asked and received permission to help them with our starboard battery, which consisted of 4 4.7in. guns on the ships side, and 1 6in. gun on the forecastle. If the din was terrible before, it was doubly so now, we could not hear ourselves shout, and all orders were passed by bugle call. The forts replied for a few minutes, but were soon silenced, without doing any damage, except a small hole made in one of our boats by a splinter from a shell which burst in close proximity to the ship. This was carried on for forty minutes, and some excellent shooting was made by our gunners. I noticed one case in particular, a young leading seaman named Nash, was captain of the foremost 4.7in. gun on the port side, a single shot of Lyddite removed a huge pile of coal which had been put on the beach to the westward of the fort. This was probably what had been taken out of the Topaze (she had a part cargo of coal when captured). There were a number of soldiers hiding behind this, but after the shot struck it, and the smoke had cleared away, there remained nothing but the sand of the beach.

Brought Down Flag  
"Another shot from the same gun brought down the flagstaff over the fort on which the Venezuelan flag had been proudly flying. And so I could go on; it was wonderful, and what a sight, to see huge blocks of masonry flying as the shells would strike and explode.

At 5.40 the order cease firing was given, and the German Commodore again came on board and ascended to the bridge where Commodore Montgomery still remained.

The German was a loud voiced man, and we all got as near the bridge as possible straining our ears to hear what was going on. The German was complimenting our Commodore on the excellent shooting we had made, and incidentally asked how many shots in all we had fired; an enquiry elicited the information that we had fired 973 shots altogether from all guns, and the German stated that from observation, in his estimation we had made 95 per cent. of hits. Our Commodore asked in return how many shots he had fired and what percentage of hits, to which he gave (to us) the astounding information that the Vinetta had fired 80 shots, making 30 per cent. of hits adding that if we had been firing at him, instead of at the forts, we would have sunk him in three minutes.

What a comparison; we found out the reason afterward. We met some German sailors on our return to Bermuda, who told us they have no initiative in the German Navy, they first load the gun, and lay the sight, and then report to an officer, who comes to inspect the gun and sights before he gives the order to fire. This then was the reason of the tremendous difference between the shooting of the two ships and what has transpired during the naval engagements of the present war, has been no surprise to me."

# SAYS MUCH DEPENDS ON THIS FIGHT

Germans Will Be Cleared Out of Belgium if They Lose the Battle Now Raging

## ALL ADVANTAGES WITH THE ALLIES

Who Are Making the Coast Untenable For the Enemy—Eastern Outlook Not so Bright

London, Oct. 21.—Col. Repington, Military Expert of the London Times, commenting on the present military situation in the western theatre of war cables: "It is difficult to overrate the importance of this battle. Victory on one side or the other will mean the recovery of strategic liberty and, in the event of German defeat, Belgium may be recovered by the Allies.

The control of the sea, which we exercise, enables us to throw troops ashore when and where we will to outflank any German line which rests its right upon the coast. Our troops can thus act with many advantages owing to the proximity of home territory and the whole situation affords ground for hope.

Less Hopeful.  
Regarding the situation in Eastern Europe, Colonel Repington is less hopeful. He says "The public read of one Russian army almost at the gates of Cracow, another almost on the lower Vistula and Russian Cavalry on the borders of Silesia, well across the Carpathians to the borders of the Hungarian Plain.

How comes it that the Austro-German Allies are now posted along the Vistula and the Sea in possession once more of Western Galicia and in occupation of one half at least of the Vistula Province?

Immense Front.  
Fighting is taking place over an immense front and the decisions of modern battles are not remarkable for rapidity. All we can be sure of is that the Russians are fighting on ground of their own choosing and will give an excellent account of themselves.

Many a fighting cock has strutted proudly into Russia with his head in the air, but he usually has gone out again with more haste than dignity, and with the loss of most of his fine feathers.

## NAVAL BATTLE IN THE BALTIC

Between German Torpedo Boats and Submarines

London, Oct. 21.—An engagement between German torpedo boats and some hostile submarines in the Baltic near Rugen Island off the Prussian coast is reported from Stockholm according to a despatch from Copenhagen.

No details of the fight or its result are given.

## SAY THEY SANK A SUBMARINE

Germans Claim to Have Sent E3 to the Bottom

Berlin, Oct. 20.—It was officially announced here today that the new British submarine E3 was sunk by the Germans in the North Sea on Sunday.

The E3 had a speed of 15 knots, had four torpedo tubes and carried a crew of 16 men.

## NEW KING FAVORS NEUTRALITY

Copenhagen, Oct. 20.—King Ferdinand, the new ruler of Roumania, is against any warlike action by his government, and wants Roumania to remain neutral, according to a Bucharest despatch received here.

## PREPARE THE WAY FOR A RETREAT

Germans Building Bridges Over the Meuse

London, Oct. 21.—The Mail's Rotterdam correspondent says that three Zeppelin airship sheds are being built at Brussels and four at Antwerp. The correspondent adds that bridges have been erected over the River Meuse between Liege and Vise preparing the way for a German retreat.

# POINTERS

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## MISS JOCELYN IS VERY SICK

Rallying Very Slowly From An Operation For Appendicitis

Miss Mollie Jocelyn, who was taken to the hospital Monday afternoon and immediately operated on for appendicitis, was very weak last evening and it was feared she would hardly recover.

Friends of the family will be pleased to learn that this morning she was much brighter.

Her father, who left Monday on a shooting trip, returned during the afternoon as the auto broke down, and he was surprised to find that Mollie had been taken to the hospital and was in a serious condition.

She had complained of being ill on Saturday night, and Sunday remained in all day, but Monday morning she was apparently much improved and urged her father to take his proposed trip.

## LIKELY IDENTITY OF MAN'S REMAINS

Is Body Found in St. Mary's Bay That of Bar Hawlen Man

Mr. R. J. Devereaux, M.H.A., who has been making enquiries into the finding of the unidentified body found in St. Mary's Bay, tied to the painter of a dory, believes it to be the remains of either the young men Pine or Miller, of Davidson, who were reported drowned from Bar Haven last week.

No other loss of life has been reported in that neighborhood.

There are still no tidings of Mrs. E. J. Landy who has been missing from her home since Sunday evening.

## WEATHER REPORT

Toronto, (noon)—Fresh S. W. and West winds, Thursday N. W. winds and showers.

## Trading Co. News Notes

The schr. Minnie J. Hickman from Twillingate with a load of fish for the Trading Co. is discharging at Baird's.

The Mary Kate, Capt. John Guppy, of Port Rexton, is loading supplies at the Union wharf.

The schr. D. M. Owen, Capt. T. Roberts, is loading supplies for Seldom Union store.

The Ocean Bride, Capt. J. Perry of Newtown, is taking supplies for Newtown Union store.

The schr. Cecil and Belle, Capt. Tideout, of Templeman, is also loading supplies for Newtown Union Store.

The Cold Storage, Capt. C. Blackwood, is loading supplies for Cat Hr. Union Store.

The Dorothy B., Capt. T. Scammell, is loading supplies for Herring Neck and Change Islands Union stores.

The Vera is loading supplies for Seilly Cove Union Store.

The Devonia and Dylas are taking supplies for Doting Cove Union store.

Mrs. Kemp, wife of Capt. Kemp of the Cape Breton, is accompanying her husband this trip. Her friends are delighted to see her.

## BROKE HIS LEG ON LABRADOR

Archibald Barrett Brought Here on the Sagona For Treatment

Archibald Barrett, of Heart's Content, arrived by the Sagona yesterday and was taken to the hospital for treatment to a broken leg.

He met with the accident while working on Ryan's fish steamer on the Labrador.

He was in the hold of the steamer and was standing under the hatch when a barrow of fish was thrown down. He attempted to jump out of the way but tripped in some loose fish and fell, and the barrow of fish was thrown on him broke his leg.

That happened ten days ago, and since then Mr. Barrett has suffered much pain.

## PRESENTATION TO CAPT. COX

No nautical man is better known to, or more heartily welcomed by, the shipping people of St. John's than Captain R. Cox, of the Bowring freighter, Othello, who arrived yesterday with part cargo of coal.

Recently, as our readers are aware Capt. Cox joined the noble army of Benedictines, and some of his friends here availed of the opportunity to make him a presentation.

At 12.30 to-day the party assembled at the office of Tasker Cook, Esq., Newfoundland's authority on shipping matters and presented the captain with two handsome silver entrée dishes.

An appropriate address, conveying to the captain and his estimable lady the best wishes of Newfoundland friends was read by Mr. R. G. Ash. It bore the signatures of Messrs Tasker Cook, Fred. W. Hayward, E. W. Taylor, H. LeMessurier and R. G. Ash.

The presentation of the beautiful dishes was made by Mr. Hayward, who spoke most eulogistically of the recipient.

A congratulatory address was also made by Mr. Cook, who in an interesting way referred to "The Day" and the effect of Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar on the world. No more appropriate occasion for such a ceremony could be had.

## READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE NEWSBOYS

or other Smart Boys and Girls; we want you at once for a War News delivery. J. M. RYAN SUPPLY CO., 227 Theatre Hill.—oct21.11

## Star of the Sea Association.

A Special Meeting of the Star of the Sea Association will be held Tonight (Wednesday) at 8 o'clock.

A large attendance is desired.

By order, WM. F. GRAHAM, Secretary. oct21,11