

War Correspondents and Artist Depict Scenes from the Front.



THE BUFFS CHARGING THROUGH THE ABATIS OF FELLED TREES TOWARD THE GERMAN TROOPS DURING THE STORMING OF CHATEAU DE FLANDERS AT RADINGHAM. (N. Y. HERALD.)

French Skiers Dislodge Germans in Fine Camp

Landsturm Men Are Ousted from Regular Village Fitted Up with Electric Light, Recreation Rooms and Beer Cellars by Detachment of Chasseurs Alpins.

(SPECIAL DESPATCH.)
BARLE, via London, March 27, 1915.
Little has yet been told about the splendid work which has been done throughout the winter by the French skiers attached to the corps of Chasseurs Alpins on the Alsatian frontier, giving the Germans a good deal of trouble. I have just been told one of the latest achievements of the Chasseurs Alpins, in which the skiers played an important part that led to the destruction of a German battery.

The Germans had determined upon a desperate effort to dislodge the French from Thann, where they are no more advanced now than they were at the beginning, though their labors have been enormous. All the mountain slopes leading up from the plain north of Thann were furrowed with trenches and barbed wire entanglements were spread everywhere to the summit.

In some places they had to use dynamite to blast the rocks in order to continue their tunnels and hollows around the mountains. The labor expended by the Germans in many places, in fact, is described as gigantic. At one spot on the safe side of a mountain slope the encampment of the Landsturm forces became a large village, in which they had cellars, low sheds for reading and recreation rooms during the long winter hours, beer cellars, for barracks of beer were trundled up the mountains, and the entire soldier village was lighted with electricity and supplied with telegraph and telephone service.

The electric plant at the same time served as a power house for supplying the electricity for boring in the rocks and preparing the trenches. This may give one an idea of the huge labor undertaken.

French Prepare Attack.

When the French were fully informed of these preparations they undertook action on their side, and prepared a carefully elaborated scheme to drive the Germans from many of their comfortable positions. My informant belonged to the detachment that joined in the attack immediately behind Hartmannswillerkopf. They picked up a number of sentries along their route and took them prisoners, and the taking of these became quite a sport.

Every man was on the lookout to make a prisoner. Thus they reached the upper sources of the little stream of the Sultz, often mentioned in official reports. The advanced forces of the column consisted mostly of skiers, who stealthily moved over the mountains in all directions and who seemed to have the gift of invulnerability. They were often fired upon, but they moved along so rapidly, like shadows over the snow, that they were rarely hit. As they approached Freudenstein, an eminence immediately behind the famous Kopf, there was not a hostile soldier in sight. It was a clear moonlight night, the

slopes were covered with a perfectly white mantle of snow. Not a dark spot was to be seen anywhere betraying the presence of the enemy. They encamped under the pine trees and prepared to pass the night there.

Orders were given to light no fire nor to show lights, even from a pocket lamp. They ate a cold supper and cleared the snow around a small spot in order to dig down to the ground. At some distance to their right a German field battery, with its 75-millimeter guns, kept up a desultory fire by a French battery of 75-millimeters from the opposite crest. They lay down, resting their heads on their knapacks, sentries were posted, and a number of their skiers set out reconnoitering. The skiers disappeared, sliding along under the pine trees like shadows over the snow, and before long they were like tiny spots on the summit and then disappeared entirely.

In Contact with Outposts.
Several hours passed and there was no news, when suddenly there was an outbreak of rifle fire. The outposts had come into contact with the enemy, but it was impossible to discover at what point. The noise of the batteries drowned nearly every other sound. Finally two of the skiers returned and reported that at a certain point some two kilometers away they had suddenly come upon a German battery concealed in the snow. It was behind the ruins of the castle of Freudenstein.

For fear of betraying their positions the enemy's guns were abandoned from firing, but an infantry company started in pursuit of the skiers and the Chasseurs Alpins and fired at them with their rifles. The Chasseurs Alpins and the skiers replied, and they saw that two officers were wounded. The Germans picked them up and carried them to the back of their line. The skiers meanwhile spread the information about the concealed battery and gave such precise indications that the battery of heavy guns stationed at the village of Thann was able to open fire on the concealed German guns, which in half an hour were demolished and thrown off their carriages, and the ammunition wagons were blown up.

The whole company of skiers was ordered forward. In a few minutes they had covered three kilometers and were at the latter part of the mountain. They were within 50 yards of the German positions. The latter waited for them with a number of machine guns carefully concealed at various points. But the skiers had discovered these positions and the order was given suddenly to turn to the left and to take a detachment of the Landsturm, who were smoking their pipes lazily and who expected no attack on their side. They were surrounded and taken prisoners. From the crest the French troops had full command of the Sultz farm and they opened fire on the Germans, who an hour later resigned. It was a clear moonlight night, the

It is only now that certain brilliant deeds which took place in the earlier days of the war have come to light in full detail. The storming of the Chateau de Flanders by the Buffs is one of these. Particulars of this brilliant episode, which took place in October last, have just been received. Both the details for the above drawing and the notes which accompany it have been gathered from an officer who witnessed the action. The Chateau de Flanders is a big country mansion adjacent to the village of Radingham, in Northern France, a little to the west of Lille. The chateau was held by a numerous body of German when an order was given to carry the chateau by storm. The task of working up to the edge of the park which surrounds the chateau was successfully accomplished, and the final dash was made with extraordinary vigor on the part of the Buffs. Sword and revolver in hand, the officers led the men at a sprinting pace up to the very doors of the building and smashed their way in. In a very short space of time the whole building was cleared of Germans and the enemy's force in the park was thrust back.

VICTORY OR DEFEAT—IT IS ALL ONE TO THE LIGHT HEARTED VIENNESE

(SPECIAL DESPATCH.)
LONDON, March 27.

"A Neutral Observer," reviewing in the Times the effect of the war on social life in Vienna, writes:—
"Vienna displays an almost comical indifference to the chaotic fires that burn luridly on the remote confines of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Polish Jews, refugees from their black hair arranged in ringlets that dangle in front of their faces, a half starved, sinister look on their faces, a sink about mid the crowd of well dressed, well fed Viennese. Austrian officers in gala dress, with astrakhan gilded tunics, immaculate in their braided uniforms, sit about the cafes in leisure nonchalance, vacant eyed, unconcerned that under their feet the realm of the Hapsburgs is crumbling.

"To understand the Viennese attitude of to-day it must be remembered that traditional faith in the Hapsburg monarchy is so imbedded in the minds of the people that nothing, not even the capture and subjugation of half the country, would convince them that all was not well. Vienna, though the capital of the Austrian Empire, appears to a foreigner even in time of war, not to represent in any way the feelings of the people outside her walls. Sufficient unto herself, she stares with haughty indifference at the destruction of distant towns and the raiding of Hungarian or Galician villages. Her state of mind appears to be not unlike that of the French nobles in the Reign of Terror they were led to the guillotine. "I found no expression of sympathy, no feeling of commiseration for the thousands of homeless, penniless, starving Galicians. No regret that the province had been lost to Austria—for in Vienna Galicia is already given up as lost beyond recall. This inherent, fatalistic attitude toward events is partly accounted for by the Asiatic note in the Viennese character. "It is well-nigh impossible to obtain a clear idea of the war in Vienna. The

Viennese, one is told, are traditionally light hearted; though in the circumstances their mirth would seem to have in it something uncannily 'macabre'. In Vienna the war is accepted as a fait accompli. How it came about and what share they had in bringing it about seem to have been entirely lost sight of. Nothing could be more striking than the contrast between the Austrian Germans and their allies, the Reichsdeutsche (Germans of Germany). In Germany the united strength, the ardent faith of the people in the righteousness of their cause, blazes forth with an almost fanatical zeal. In Vienna I found the very opposite—a cold, lifeless indifference, an absence of all positive qualities, to an extent that is incredible. I looked in vain for any word or phrase that should convey to me a feeling of confidence in their administration or army. And though many seem to realize that in this struggle they have everything to lose and nothing to gain, it is, as far as I could discover, a matter of no concern.

"Among the official and ruling classes, all ideas are apishly patterned on those of Berlin, regardless of the fact that they are in most cases in no way suited to the conditions existing in Austria. A characteristic example of this is the manner of their treatment of the English. I was unable to find any one who personally had any feeling of animosity toward England. English governesses are still retained in their positions, and English goods are still being sold in the shops and yet, in order to be in complete 'harmony' with Berlin, British civilians have been interned. With the usual Austrian carelessness, these civilians are confined in old, abandoned castles that have not been used for the last hundred years without any arrangements having been made for the most rudimentary comforts. The result has been that the interned British in Austria have suffered and are suffering far more than civilian prisoners in any part of Germany.

The extraordinary complacency of all classes of the Viennese in face of the present disastrous war was emphasized strongly to me by a leading financier:—
"No matter how bad conditions may be we are surprised beyond our most sanguine expectations that the empire is standing the shock of this world war with such a display of cohesion and strength."

"This opinion I heard reflected again and again by the most influential men in various walks of life.

"In Vienna after six months of war we live our lives as usual. Our cafes, our theatres are crowded, food is still plentiful. We are a much stronger people than we ever realized, a well known Deputy said to me.

"This is the most immediate concern of the majority of the Viennese and a satisfactory proof to them of their unimpaired power. That Galicia has been lost, that Austria, through outnumbering their opponents by three to one, have been driven headlong out of Serbia, seems to be of less interest or less worthy of consideration than that in Vienna the bread is still white and the cafes are open.

"The war itself is discussed with apathy; war news, when not 'edited' in Berlin, is neither believed in nor considered seriously by any one. The 'exploits' of Austrian commanders are retailed as 'tea time' gossip in Vienna. The story of the Serbian fiasco, as told to me by a Viennese, reflects truthfully the feeling of many toward their military efficiency.

"The Austrian general in command of the expeditionary force against Serbia made every provision for a dashing advance and speedy conquest of the country, but forgot the commissariat, as did his staff and all the other responsible officers. In consequence, unhampered by any slow moving impediments, the Austrian troops were able to overpower their opponents and found themselves far in the enemy's country before it was realized that they were without either supplies or ammunition."

German Enthusiasm Gives Way to Cold Resolve to Win

Traveller in Fatherland Says Early Outward Confidence Has Disappeared, but That Nation, None the Less, Is Counting on Victory.

(SPECIAL DESPATCH.)
LONDON, March 27.

A correspondent who has been travelling in the east of France and in neutral countries, and who has had several opportunities for discussing the internal situation in Germany, writes that in many respects the impressions of his informants do not support much that has been published.

His first informant passed through Germany in October and returned from another extended tour only a few days ago. The thing that struck him most was that the feeling of confidence in the results of the war was less marked than during his earlier trip. Nobody, it is true, would listen to the possibility of Germany being beaten, but every kind of opinion was expressed that the war was going to be a long one and that Germany would have to put forth every effort to defeat the Allies.

"You will make a great mistake in the 'land,' he said, 'if you think that with the cooling of the enthusiasm for the war the determination is any the less to carry it through at all sacrifices.'

"Another thing that struck me," he said, "was the intense bitterness against England. When I was in Germany before England was treated with disdain, her 'little effort' was laughed at. Now the word seems to have gone around that if victory is delayed it is the fault of England. My own impression is that the government, feeling it is losing, is fomenting the fierce hatred of England among the masses for obvious political reasons."

With the exception of bread, there is no apparent shortage in any of the necessities of life. The public did not see in the regulations a danger signal. They regarded them as a masterly administrative move. This confidence in the administrative machine is as unbounded as it is in the military machine. What might happen in a few months' time if a military reverse came on top of increased economic pressure my informant would not venture to predict.

Another informant said that Berlin and Munich, among the cities he had seen, appeared particularly gay. He was in a small town in Germany a week or two ago when the bells suddenly started ringing and the residents flocked into the streets and cafes. He asked the Burgomaster what the trouble was. His reply was:—"There is good news from Berlin, and the Kaiser's watchword is: 'We must keep the people amused.'"

Life is to be kept normal in Germany, even to the cafes remaining open until one o'clock in the morning; no sign is to be given that the people are feeling the war. But next to the quietness of railway traffic the number of women in mourning was the most significant thing he saw in the city. In a familiar restaurant where in ordinary times bread is supplied in abundance he found a little roll served with the meal. When he asked for another portion of bread he was told that it could not be supplied alone. To get a second portion of bread he would have to order a "follow" of meat.

From what can be judged from these various informants the situation is this:—The government is determined that the people shall not feel the pinch of war so long as it is able to prevent it, and with the middleman under the iron heel these stocks of the necessities of life which remain in the country are being sold at normal prices. But the economic tension is bound to increase during the next few months.

Not an ounce of wheat is getting in through Switzerland now. The vast supplies seized by the German armies in Poland, Belgium and the occupied areas of Northern France on which they were able to keep the troops going for a time must be long since exhausted; the present German advance in East Prussia is over territory that is devastated and offers no facilities for an army to "live on the country." The tremendous increases in the German fighting effective, though, of course, they do not represent any more months to fill, react on the civil population, which always has second place in the administrative mind.

In the meantime German credit is steadily dwindling. The 100 mark note is neutral countries will fetch only 8.50, and Austrian currency has suffered even more severely. On the other hand, the British 40 note stands at five shillings, or more, premium, while the value of the French 100 franc note has never been higher, the middle premium being about 3.50 to 4.00.

GIVE PART OF PAY FOR BEREAVED FAMILIES

(SPECIAL DESPATCH.)
PARIS, March 27.

A touching letter reached the office of the Paris Figaro recently showing the spirit of the French soldiers. It reads:—"The non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the headquarters of the Third Cavalry Division have conceived the idea of sacrificing a part of their pay to aid in relieving the families of such comrades who have fallen in the present war. In this endeavor the soldiers of the General Staff of the division have associated themselves with their subordinates. Only quite recently you (the Figaro) were kind enough to appertain to our division a number of gifts which were sent by your readers for the soldiers at the front."

We know of no better way of thanking you for this kindness than by sending you this little subscription enclosed and asking you to distribute it in the best way possible. Please receive, therefore, gentlemen, the enclosed 50fr. (50), which has been collected in our midst, and this we wish to have distributed to the widows and orphans of the soldiers who have given their lives for our country." The editor of the Figaro forwarded this amount to the National Association for the Protection of Widows and Orphans, which is presided over by the Duchesse d'Ursat.