

THRILLING STORIES OF AERIAL WAR

Boyish British Fliers Dare Much to Blind German Gunners.

TAKE BIG ODDS

And Usually Come Out Best in Vivid Combats.

(By Philip Gibbs.)

War Correspondents' Headquarters in France, Cable.—In the daily official reports a brief picture has been given of the battle which has raged in the skies while the earthmen have been struggling below.

Truly, during these last few days our air service has fought very wonderfully, and some day one of these young men who go flying out to engage the enemy in the clouds or to search out and signal the position of hostile batteries, or to stoop low and scatter infantry and machine-gunners with a shower of bullets, must write the tale of it all.

There have been hours when I have heard overhead the continual tattoo of Lewis guns, and when a great sweep of sky has been tracked out with a white shrapnel cloud, following our flying squadrons, engaged hotly with hostile machines. One cannot follow the progress of these aerial battles. It is only rarely that one can distinguish the enemy machine from ours except by the cloudlets of our anti-aircraft barrage, but far and high one sees daring specks chasing through the blue of the sky, touched sometimes by sunlight, so that for a moment they are all golden or glistening or white as snowflakes, and down to one comes the loud droning of the engines and the little hammerlocks of the Lewis machine guns. Our soldiers on march stare up at the war above their heads so aloof from them, so dream-like, and the men on the supply columns get their glasses out and laugh when one of our kite balloons is hauled down suddenly with great haste. "Old Rupert has got the wind up," they say. "A Boche plane must be sneaking around."

It is no joke when a German airman descends out of a cloud and hovers over a battery signalling back to his base. I was in such a situation the other day and had to crouch with the gunners below a bank while shrapnel bullets from our own "Archie" whirled the air about the red wings that have come into the sky, for the new German fighting machines have crimson planes so that they look like butterflies when the sun is on them.

Enemy airmen have been trying to compete with our own by swooping low above marching troops and gun teams, and using their machine guns in a way which adds new perils to the war, but though they fight behind their own lines with great skill and courage they do not come over our country in any such numbers as our men invade theirs. This is not a prejudiced statement, but the strict truth and our airmen go daily far back across the German lines, taking thousands of photographs, engaging enemy squadrons so that they are held back from the line of battle, and dropping tons of explosives upon ammunition dumps, railheads, and transport.

The boys, for they are absurdly young in average age, take all these deadly risks and do all this work of terror with the same spirit as the young gentlemen of England who rode out with Sir John Chandos and Sir Walter Manny to seek combat with French knights many hundred years ago along the roads where our modern men-at-arms go marching to-day.

During this recent fighting one of them challenged a German Albatross, who accepted fight, and for an hour they did every trick known to flying—stalling, banking, side-slipping and looping in order to get in the first shot. It was the German who fired first, though he showed himself the master of his machine. There are boys in our air service who have killed six or seven Germans in a single combat, a few who have accounted for many more and go off again for a morning's hunting of men as though on a good adventure. Yet they know the risks and the fortune of war. They cannot have all the luck all the time. When the turn comes it is quick to the end, or if hit and left alive they do amazing things up there in the high skies to save a final crash.

A few evenings ago two of our young officers were attacked by five hostile aircraft and both were wounded, one in seven places, but they destroyed one of the German aeroplanes, and landed safely, though their own machine was pierced by many bullets. On another evening of the battle of Arras two hostile aircraft were engaged by one of ours and forced to land, though one of our officers had his collarbone broken by a machine gun bullet.

Day after day these episodes are reported and the machines of the officers do not come home, but when an other dawn comes our air squadrons rise again and fly over the storm of the battlefield. As I see them in the wing over Arras and away there is no romance except when a tale is told in the night of bombing raids. There is no exultant joy in struggling through a snowstorm to drop high explosives on a distant town. During this battle of Arras our airmen have made thousands of flights over the enemy lines, have engaged in hundreds of combats with hostile squadrons, and at the cost of their own lives in many cases have saved our infantry great losses by keeping down the fire of the German batteries, de-

stroying their kite balloons, signalling preparations for the German counter-attacks, photographing the enemy's trenches and positions, and blinding his own power of observation to some extent at least by chasing his aeroplanes away from the lines on a day when the British infantry is not hard pressed.

It is good to pay this tribute to the flying men, whose exploits are not always recorded, though they are always overhead, and though the droning song of their engines is always the accompaniment of battle down below.

IN BULGAR HANDS.

Canadian Airman a Prisoner—Burned His Machine.

London Cable.—News has been received from Lieut. J. C. Farish Owen, son of Mr. S. M. Owen, K. C., of Annapolis, N.S., to the effect that he is a prisoner in the hands of the Bulgarians. In a letter to his brother, who is also a lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps in England, Lieut. Owen states that he and the commander of his aircraft made a flight across the enemy lines and that a hot battle ensued in which Lieut. Owen's machine was hit, obliging him to descend to the enemy lines. Lieut. Owen managed to set the machine afire on reaching the ground. Lieut. R. W. Cross, of Winnipeg, another flying corps officer, reported missing recently, is now reported by the German Red Cross to be their prisoner. His machine was hit while chasing the enemy to their side of the line.

DOWN ON THE HUN.

Danes Resent Their Course Beyond Britain's.

Copenhagen, via London, Cable.—The announcement in the Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung that the German Government is willing to negotiate with Spain over certain concessions in connection with the submarine war has aroused deep interest in Denmark. The increasing toll taken of Danish ships, particularly among those sailing from America to Denmark with urgently needed foodstuffs, is steadily augmenting the feeling against Germany. The anti-German sentiment now outbalances the resentment caused by the British blockade.

"WE WILL WIN ARRAS BATTLE"

Says Director of British Military Operations.

Waiting for Guns, but Working Like Machine.

London Cable.—"The German official statement a couple of days ago," said General Maurice, "announced that a great defeat had been administered to the British. It further claimed that we had attacked on a 15-mile front and failed completely. If the Germans defeated us we naturally shall not be able to maintain our position in that section, but I ask you to wait a little and see whether the British refute this claim by their action.

As to the 15-mile front, we made an attack on just half that distance, and we have been successful. The fact that we appear to remain stationary from time to time should not worry anyone. Depending as much as we are on the use of artillery, it is necessary for us to consolidate our positions and bring along our guns as we progress. We are continually having heavy German counter-attacks, and it would be a useless loss of British life to push on without artillery protection.

"When the second phase of the battle began we forced the Germans back on both our wings, while in the centre they succeeded in pushing us back a little. However, we counter-attacked and drove the Germans out of all the positions they had gained in the centre, and inflicted great losses on them.

"It is worthy of note that recently there has been much open fighting, and in this the British have shown themselves superior to the Germans, who were supposed to excel in this department.

"Our superiority in artillery is due not so much to an excess in the number of guns as to superior gunnery and a plentiful supply of munitions. We are getting the results of the efforts of the munition workers at home, for great quantities of guns and munitions are being poured into France.

Gen. Maurice was asked if there was any imminent probability of a German attack on Italy and Russia. "That is always a possibility," he replied, "and I presume the question as to whether such an attack will be made will be settled on the Arras battlefield. If we win, as we are sure we will, then they will not be able to carry out a big assault on other fronts."

The German newspapers are claiming victory in the Battle of Arras, telegraphs the correspondent at The Hague of the Evening News.

The Frankfurter Zeitung says: "The second Battle of Arras can never be made good by the British, who lost it at an enormous cost in men and material."

The Cologne Gazette says: "German troops look across fields piled with corpses of the British army, which they have repelled successfully."

The Cologne Volks Zeitung says: "The Siegfried position has become an elastic band, a living wall which has dissolved the physical and moral strength of the enemy."

DEADLY WORK WITH BAYONETS DESPITE MODERN ART OF WAR

Britishers With the Cold Steel Take German Position That Held Out.

Four Desperate Assaults Resisted, but Cold Steel Won the Day.

(By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

With the British Armies in France, Cable.—Despite all the wondrous war weapons modern science has created, the cold steel of the bayonet has asserted itself anew in much of the recent bitter fighting as the arm of last appeal. As already related, the struggles about Monchy-le-Proux since Monday have attained an intensity unequalled by any of the fighting in the Somme campaign last year.

There was one German position north of the town and paralleling the Scarpe River, which resisted four desperate attacks. It was finally decided to take this position at the point of the bayonet, without a shot of any kind being fired. The attack was made along a three-quarters of a mile front under cover of darkness.

A COMPLETE SURPRISE. The British battalions were formed, in comparatively close order, and at the whispered word of command, repeated along the line, trudged forward into the night. Grim and silent figures they were, some in kilts, some in plain khaki, each man wearing a steel helmet, each having a firm grip of his rifle with fixed bayonet, the polished surface of which, however, caught the reflecting glint in the enveloping darkness.

Overhead, shells were droning, and back of the lines guns could be heard. But it was only a desultory bombardment going on, and there were fleeting intervals of strange quiet just where the determined line of British troops were approaching their unsuspecting gray-clad foes.

Four unsuccessful daylight assaults had left a touch of chagrin which was to be wiped out in this "getting." There is little more to tell. The sound of the fighting in the trenches was lost in the British barrage which closed down some distance behind the German position immediately the British signalled they had entered the position. The barrage cut off any German who attempted to flee from the bayonet charge.

ALL OVER IN TEN MINUTES. Thus in ten minutes with the silent bayonet was secured a position which had held out for two days.

The bayonet also has come in effectively in dealing with the ever troublesome machine guns and gunners. A few brave men, stealing out in the night, have been able to accomplish much.

Several British battalions have reported in the past few days that the Germans are again employing the old "kammerad" ruse, suddenly standing up in the shallow trenches and holding up their hands and shouting across to their opponents that they would surrender. Two battalions, believing the sincerity of this proposal, started across to bring in the prisoners, but were immediately attacked.

Incidents like this have helped materially to give the element of bitterness to the fighting to a degree which has startled even those men who have been in the battles since the first German rush through Belgium.

BAYONET TRAINING. The British have given unceasing attention to the bayonet fighting drill in the past two years. The month of training in England has been supplemented by post-graduate courses in the great training camps in France, and continued as the units passed down through the corps into divisions, brigades and battalions. The night before the Arras attack some sergeants could be heard giving their platoons last instructions. One of these groups formed a curious picture in the moonlight, where all the air was electric with preparations for the coming clash at dawn.

Traffic along the clogged road leading toward the point of contact with the enemy suddenly stopped because of a temporary block. The throbbing motor engines were throttled down to an almost inaudible purr; the tired horses dragging army wagons or artillery limbers stood with the stiffness of near-exhaustion. Their drivers' heads dropped limp as they snatched a few moments of sleep. The mystic sort of silence which settled down was broken by the raucous voice with which sergeants always impress their wandering subordinate.

This particular sergeant's men were facing each other for thrust and parry exercise. They were not to take part in the first rushes of the morning, but going in later in the day, to press the attack on the third and fourth lines. And there was yet time to give them final advice.

RANG LIKE STEEL. The sergeant's commands seemed to have a ring in them like the clashing of the steel they directed. "Come along, come along," he said, "let me see a little more murder in those eyes. Get some more viciousness behind you. Your bloomier rifle ain't no baby."

The sergeant gave much more telling advice than this, and the drill ceased amid great chaffing. The correspondent stopped the sergeant as he came along the road, and asked: "Will your men remember all that?"

"No sir, they won't remember it all," was the frank reply, "but what they do remember will help."

Wife.—This paper tells of a man out in Ohio who lives on onions alone. Hub.—Well, anyone who lives on onions ought to live alone.—Boston Transcript.

VIMY TROPHIES FOR DOMINION

To Be Exhibited at Various Fall Fairs.

Huns Testify to Canadian Gunnery.

(By Stewart Lyon, Canadian Press Correspondent with the Canadian Forces.)

Canadian Headquarters in France, Cable says—A varied assortment of Vimy trophies, machine guns, mortars and field guns, are being prepared to be shipped out to Canada. These will be a feature of the Fall fairs.

From the dugouts of Vimy ridge and from prisoners taken there were obtained many letters, diaries and other documents, indicating the efficiency of our preparatory artillery fire, as well as the accuracy of our information on which it was based. Some of these have been translated. They prove that the enemy had heavy losses in men and material before the infantry were hoisted upon him, and that even more serious was his loss of confidence as he saw his trenches blown away and his guns buried.

"Hell is lost," in this phrase a German gunner chronicled on March 31st the opening of our artillery attack.

The record of a trench mortar battery shows that day after day the mortars were buried. Day after day the patient gunners dug out their weapons, only to have them buried again deeper than before. In despair, the day before the assault, a gunner writes:

"Everything is buried, the entrance to our shelter, the gun emplacements, the whole French ammunition supply and fuses—all buried."

Just before the assault an infantryman made this record:

"Nobody imagines how frantic it is here. It is almost worse than the Somme. There is no longer a trench; only shellholes and mine craters. Losses on losses. We are now only a third, and two-thirds are missing. Here one can only give up hope, as if this lasts a fortnight longer nothing will remain of the division, and one is up to the middle in mud and filth. One almost despairs, but there is nothing one can do, unless one wishes to— Here the diary ends.

BRITISH GOT THE BREMEN

German Merchant Sub. a Prize of the Nets.

N. Y. Sun Correspondent Saw Her in Dock.

The German merchant submarine Bremen, sister vessel of the Deutschland, which twice visited this country, is in the hands of the British, according to a special correspondent of the Evening Sun, who returned aboard the St. Louis. Proof that came to him through three sources established to his satisfaction that the undersea craft was captured on her maiden trip. He heard during his stay in England that the Deutschland also had been seized and that Capt. Paul Koening and his crew are prisoners in a camp in the north of England. However, he could gather no specific facts about this vessel.

He was told about the Bremen by a British naval officer, of high rank. The details of her capture were related by this officer, who showed a photograph of the submarine. The picture showed the same contour of body and the same type of conning tower and general super-structure of the Deutschland. Corroboration came from another naval officer and also from an American manufacturer who has a factory in Scotland. The latter said he saw the Bremen laid up in one of England's yards. In all three stories the circumstances of the capture are identical.

"I confess I was sceptical about the stories of the Bremen's capture," narrated the manufacturer. "I didn't begin to believe that they might be true until I went to the port where the vessel was said to be tied up. I went there on official naval business for the British Government and heard so many sensational stories about Germany's captured blockade runner that my curiosity was aroused.

"I asked a certain Admiralty officer to tell me the plain truth about the Bremen, and he asked me if I would believe my own eyes. I said I was perfectly willing to take his word, but

of an opportunity. We got in at long before I had ship Bremen. of interesting detail. I am not sure, but I can tell you that the submarine I saw was the Bremen and that she was captured through becoming entangled in a heavy cable net. She was running submerged at the time, and her diving planes near the bow got caught in the mesh of the net.

"The submersible probably made frantic efforts to free herself, because when found her stern was far out of the water, both her screws being in the air. I understand that one of the German officers said they pumped their ballast tanks dry with a view of raising a part of the vessel to the surface so that the men could be sent on deck to clear the planes of the net. That was impossible, as the net was too heavy and too firmly anchored. An accident to the machinery caused gas fumes to fill the engine room and it was necessary to close the water tight doors, seven men losing their lives."

Another story had it that Capt. Schwartzkopf was among the survivors.—New York Sun.

U-BOAT TOLL WAS HEAVIER

40 Ships Over 1,600 Tons Sunk in Last Week.

More Vessels Successful in Escaping.

London Cable says.—The weekly statement of vessels sunk as made public this evening shows that 40 vessels of over 1,600 tons each were sent to the bottom by mines or submarines.

"Weekly shipping returns: Arrivals, 2,586; sailings, 2,621.

"Sinking, by mine or submarine, over 1,600 tons, 40, including two sunk in the week ending April 15; under 1,600 tons, 15, including one sunk in the week ending April 15.

"Vessels unsuccessfully attacked, 27; including one attacked the week ending April 8.

"Fishing vessels sunk, 9, including one sunk the week ending April 15."

The above report shows the greatest number of merchant vessels reported sunk by submarine or mines in both categories—1,600 tons and over, and under 1,600 tons—made public by the British Government since it has issued its weekly statement of shipping losses. The previous reports were as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Over 1,600 tons, Under 1,600 tons. Rows for February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11, April 18.

The report also shows that more vessels were successful in evading attack, the figures being 27, against 19, the previous high figure during any week. The arrivals and departures of steamers from British ports average fairly well with those of the preceding weeks.

TURKS ROUTED IN MESOPOTAMIA

Gen. Maude Strikes Again, and Wins Victory.

Enemy Driven Back Another Ten Miles.

London Cable.—An official statement received to-day from General Maude, commanding the British forces in Mesopotamia, says that the British have driven the Turks from about 17 miles north of its junction with the Tigris. General Maude's total captures on Saturday and Sunday in the vicinity of Izbabul were 687 prisoners and 15 guns. Concerning the actions in the vicinity of Izbabul the statement says:

"The full list of our captures for the two days, including those already reported, is 20 officers, 697 men, 1 gun of 5.9 calibre, 14 Krupp guns, 2 machine guns, 1,240 rifles."

In a message on Tuesday evening General Maude reports: "After a night march we made a surprise attack on one division of the Thirteenth Turkish army corps on the west bank of the Shatt-el-Adhem, about seven miles north of its junction with the Tigris. The enemy was driven from his position and fell back on the Second Turkish division of the Thirteenth corps some ten miles further north. In this action 131 prisoners were taken, including four officers, many transport mules, ponies and camels."

TO BUILD WOODEN SHIPS. Ottawa, Report.—The Imperial Munitions Board and the United States Shipping Board have been in consultation during the past fortnight with regard to co-operation in the production of wooden ships in Canada and the United States. Standardized types of vessels have been agreed upon, and there will be a common schedule of prices and contracts. Arrangements are now being made to have a considerable number of wooden ships for ocean transportation built on the Pacific coast. In Canada R. P. Burchart of Victoria, will take charge of the British organization of the industry for the Imperial Munitions Board.

MURDER CASE REOPENED. New York, Report.—The new Government of Russia decided this week to try former Minister of Justice Shtchegolev off on a charge of having falsely prosecuted Mendel Bells, the shoemaker of Kiev, for participation in a ritual murder, according to a despatch to the Jewish Daily Forward from its Petrograd correspondent. He will be tried in the same court where the shoemaker's trial took place, the despatch said, which at the time attracted attention throughout the world.

EXHAUSTED, THE ENEMY NOW QUIET

All His Furious Counters Failed to Gain Against British.

A FOOLISH CLAIM

Was That of Berlin, That Haig Was Trying to Break Through.

Paris Cable.—Vel hints as to a possible reinforcement of the armies here by additional veteran forces are being made.

(By Perry Robinson.) British Headquarters in France, Cable.—The last 24 hours have been comparatively quiet, except for artillery and aerial activity. There was no infantry operations of importance. Renewed army counter-attacks on Gravelle attempted to develop, but were broken up by our guns. Elsewhere, except for heavy shelling by long-range artillery, the enemy seems to have exhausted himself. We are busy consolidating the ground.

The comparatively parrow depth of our advance gives a misleading impression on the importance of the success on the 23rd and 24th. It is more valuable to put out of action 50,000 Germans and gain half a mile than to gain five miles and only inflict a loss of 10,000 on the Germans. They can better afford to give ground than men. What our army wants is fighting. The last few days the Germans undoubtedly fought in some cases with great determination. It is necessary to delay us, and they are willing to pay an enormous price in order to move back their guns.

AN ABSURD CLAIM. The absurdity of the German wireless claims that the last operation was an attempt to break through is shown by the fact that the nearest points on the west are still 6,000 yards from the Quent line. How any commander could be expected on such a line when his men had 6,000 yards to go before reaching it is not easy to understand.

The recent operation was purely for the local purpose of gaining the objectives necessary for a methodical progress towards the Quent line. The chief of these objectives were the villages of Guemappe and Gravelle, which we hold. North of the Scarpe we would gladly have gone further through the village of Roeux but the defences here are so prickly it would be too costly to rush them. There are less expensive ways of getting such positions as the capture of the enemy attacked supreme importance to the places captured is shown by his desperate efforts to recover them, by which he suffered infinitely greater loss than we declined to face in order to capture Roeux. Geographically the operation was small, but, interpreted in terms of the damage done to German power, its importance was immense.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTS. The official communication issued this evening says:

"A party of the enemy which attempted to raid one of our crater posts southeast of Ypres early this morning was driven off with losses.

"There was considerable activity during the day by both sides at a number of points between St. Quentin and Arras, and also in the neighborhood of Ypres.

"Successful work was carried out by our aeroplanes yesterday, in spite of the less favorable weather. In air fighting two German machines were brought down, a third was falling in our lines, a third was driven down out of control. Three of our machines are missing."

THE GERMAN VANDAL Again Busy Destroying Rheims Cathedral.

Paris Cable.—Stung by the steady advance on the French front the Germans to-day threw fifteen large calibre shells at the Rheims Cathedral, damaging several important parts of the famous monument. Encouraged by their first success, sixteen more heavy shells were thrown upon the vaults and towers. The northern tower suffered most from the shelling, and is leaning so that its stability may give way at any time. S. A. P. G. Sainsaulieu, the architect of the cathedral, is seriously concerned as to the further resistance of the edifice to heavy projectiles. The vaults and transept have suffered irreparable loss. The projectiles being used are of the 380-millimetre size. Some of these huge missiles crashed into the building during Sunday.

TURK WAS LATE In Destroying British Water Base in Sinai.

Constantinople Cable.—The War Office made the following announcement to-day:

"On the Sinai front our airmen landed behind the enemy lines in the midst of the desert and totally destroyed the water supply system which the British had constructed for their troops.

Destruction of the water works built by the British to facilitate their advance across the desert into Palestine probably would not interfere seriously with the operations of the main British force. The British have now advanced to the neighborhood of Gaza on the green plains of Palestine, well out of the desert, and have established a base on the coast.