

Death by Torture Result of Gas War

Neutral Correspondent Describes Fearful Cruelty of Germans' New Mode of Warfare.

Herbert Corey is a war correspondent of the Associated Newspapers. For months he has been with the German army and his letters have been frankly pro-German. He is one of the correspondents who accepted the German denials of Belgian and other atrocities. Now he is facing the facts and manfully admits that he was deceived. His description here of German tortures that rival the horrors of the ancient Inquisition is one of the strongest articles out of the war zone.

Bailliet, France, June 4.—Not half the story of trench gas has been told. What do you think of an instrument of death that not merely kills, but tortures?

This is a statement—a tabulated, calm, matter of fact statement—of what the Germans' latest instrument for killing is able to accomplish. Twenty per cent of those affected—one man in five—is killed by the trench gas. Thirty per cent of those affected will be killed—be affected permanently by it.

Those affected suffer the tortures of hell. They flame with fever. Their lungs fill with water, so that they drown, except that the drowning is not mercifully quick.

Those who die cough—and cough—until a kind of death comes. They may not be down. Their faces turn a horrible gray-brown in color. They sit in their beds and are conscious while fire runs through their veins—and cough. And so they die.

I am writing this story as a neutral and an impartial correspondent. I believe I may claim that title with right. During my stay in Germany a field of the many admirable qualities of the German nation—of their unty courage—and magnificent courage—with genuine enthusiasm. I have not one word to retract or modify of what I have written. But I wish to add a further tribute to German qualities.

There is something in the German spirit which leads the nation to applaud the murders of the Lusitania. There is something in the German spirit which permits them to kill men by torture—if thereby they may win.

EFFECTS OF THE GAS
Through the invitation of the French Government, I was one of the first party of correspondents to make a personal investigation of the effects of trench gas. I was frankly sceptical. In Germany the charge that boiling oil had been pumped upon opponents had been angrily resented. I had believed that denial. Conceding that trench gas had been used, I refused to believe that it was of a character that would inflict great suffering. I am now convinced, I have watched men dying.

Our party visited the hospital at Zuydcoote, where French and Belgians had been brought from the front, fifteen kilometres distance. This was one of the first hospitals to receive men suffering from trench gas. A distinguished Paris pathologist, Professor Katherly, told us of the effects of the gas. His testimony was added to that of the physicians and surgeons of the hospital. We saw the men who suffered. At the hospital at Malo-les-Bains we saw and talked to other physicians and soldiers.

We were accorded the usual privilege of visiting the British clearing station at Bailliet. The word "unusually" is to be emphasized. The British have fought against correspondents as vigorously as they have fought against the Germans. It took such a thing as the trench gas to break down their horror of the printed word. There we talked to Colonel Sir Wilmoth Herringham, consulting physician of this great hospital base, and a man whose word will be received with respect even in Germany. At the three hospitals, covering the three armies, the figures given us coincide in effect. They were as follows:

Ten per cent of the men—one man in ten—died in the trenches. What this means may be appreciated when you know that a 15 per cent casualty list—including deaths and all wounds—has been regarded as sufficient in previous wars for the ordering of a retreat.

A wandering percentage of from 6 to 10 per cent of the men affected died after making their escape from the trenches. The percentage depends largely upon the staying qualities of the men and on the gas used. It appears that there are at least two sorts of gas used by the Germans. No doubt this instrument is still in the experimental stage. One is sent out from cauldrons, or some such instrumentality. The other is discharged in bombs.

VICTIMS SUFFER FOR LIFE
The physicians believe that 30 per cent of the men who lived through it will be permanently affected by it. Their lungs and bronchial passages have been cut to pieces by it. It is too early as yet to more than guess

at the after effects of the gas. What is even more horrible—for death and permanent injury are the result of every instrument used in war is the suffering inflicted.

These men died—or lived—in agony that no inquisitor ever exceeded upon his victim. The upper respiratory organs were cut to pieces by the gas. They died after days of coughing—days and nights in which sleep was impossible—in which they coughed until their lungs were flooded by the water produced by the irritation, so that they drowned—slowly. I am passing no judgment upon the ethical questions involved in this use of gas. The world will do that. I am merely trying to tell the story.

It is important to say too that statistics are as yet unreliable. Some of the trenches gained by the Germans through the use of this gas are still in their hands. It is impossible to discover how many died in those trenches. Because of the system of shifting men on from hospital to hospital, in order to get them away from the front—in order that room may be made at the clearing stations for freshly wounded men—the estimate of the percentage of men who died in the hospitals is as yet mere guesswork. The figures I have given are a composite.

"They do not lose courage," is the statement of the authorities of the British hospital at Bailliet. "The men who came here were of the finest type we have seen."

"We'll stick it out if we can," they said. "But they coughed continually. The whole warful coughed. When they first came in their faces were a reddish purple in color—highly congested. Their eyes streamed with a yellowish secretion. The expectoration was profuse. They could not lie down. They could not sleep. By and by their color turned to a grayish-black. Then they died."

That description of their sufferings may answer for the men in all the hospitals. In some instances acute pneumonia developed after a few days. In other cases the men seemed but slightly affected at the outset. Later on the acid seemed to wear away the lung tissue. In the hospital at Zuydcoote there was a Moor—just a boy, with a pleasant, kindly, infinitely sad face. He could not talk a word of French, or of any other language except the Cabin dialect. He was patient and uncomplaining.

"We sent him back to the trenches once," said the doctor. "They thought he was cured. But after a day in the trenches the cough came on, and he was returned to the hospital. Now they fear he may die. His symptoms are those of other sufferers. His nose bleeds, and he has a high fever and constant headache. Always that tearing cough."

"It is as though they were suffering from quick consumption," said one man. "The gas seems to have first been used on April 22. All along the line the story was the same. The men

saw the clouds of gas issuing from various points in the German trenches, as though it was being pumped from machines, or was boiling out of cauldrons. More likely it was under the pressure of several atmospheres in strong receptacles. When the order came it was only necessary to release it.

"It was greenish yellow, with a cast of red in it," all said of the trench gas. This is to be distinguished from the shell gas, of which more later.

"It rolled towards us in a cloud borne by the wind. In some places it rose to a height of twenty-five feet. As it rose it became more yellowish. It did not attain a great height for the first 100 or 200 yards."

The importance of this is that the opposing trenches are not more than 100 yards apart in many places along this line.

"It flowed heavily, like a thick liquid," was one man's description. "It ran over the trench embankments and into the trench just as a table cloth slides over the edge of a table. The trench became untenable at once."

The first thing noticed by the men was a tendency to cough. Their eyes watered. Soon they could not stand it and ran away. Those who stooped over to pick up their bags or guns were lost," was the universal testimony. "They died right there."

Some of the French and Belgians charged through the cloud and attacked the Germans. Not many. The survivor of one such charge said: "One wasn't much good after he had fought his way through the gas. He couldn't fight." For the most part the men staggered out, helping their comrades as best they could. The range of the gas depended upon wind conditions. In one case it knocked out artillery men who had been firing at the German trenches at a range of 2,600 yards. Being artillerymen they knew the range to the yard.

ABOUT 6,000 VICTIMS.
The Englishmen affected numbered something less than 2,500. About 3,500 French were "gassed." No precise statement has yet been made of the number of Belgians. Laboratory experiments upon the affected men show that the gas used—the trench gas—is probably a compound of chlorine and bromine. The men recognize the bromine fumes. "But it was not so reddish," they said. "The gas stayed on the ground." Then they were offered the fumes of chlorine. "That's what we got," they said with precision. It is thought that other acids were blended with these two principles.

The shell gas has been discharged in bombs fired from the German field pieces. It is of a greyish black color, and while differing slightly from the trench gas, has practically the same effect. Here and there along the lines the difference in color and odor are noted by the men, which makes it seem likely that the Germans are still experimenting. Autopsies show that tubercular in-

dividuals, or men who have recovered from tuberculosis, are more dangerously affected. Because of the impairment of their breathing apparatus, they are unable to throw off the gas as rapidly as perfectly sound men. The treatment has been a very simple one—plenty of milk, calming potions for the cough, and the men who are able are made to walk, to quicken the natural processes of elimination.

That careful preparations had been made by the Germans is shown by the pieces of apparatus captured. One was an oxygen helmet, such as is used by rescuers in mines. Obviously this was worn by the men who handled the apparatus. The rank and file wore face masks, which had been wet in a solution of hydrosulphite of soda—the "hyppo" of the amateur photographer—and the chemical, the nature of which has not yet been discovered. Then there is a third variety of mask, which exactly resembles a pig's snout. It is fitted on over the nose and mouth and held in place by tapes. In the round, bestial snout are eight holes, through which air is admitted to be filtered by passage through a wet sponge. On the side is a valve which closes when the wearer inhales and opens to let out the exhaled air.

"Imagine the Germans wearing these pig snouts and their spiked helmets and charging through the dense fumes of acid," said one member of our party. "They must have made you think of wild boars dashing through a forest."

That bait was offered half a dozen soldiers, but not one of them would rise to it. They are painfully literal minded, these fighting men. Each replied in the same terms: "No. We thought they were wearing handkerchiefs over their faces."

Let me add another word of testimony as to the literal-mindedness of these men. Col. Sir Wilmoth Herringham had just finished a description of the scene in one of the trenches which the British held—in

which the dead men, poisoned by gas, were lying in heaps. Someone suggested that the Germans may have killed some of these men.

"We know absolutely," said Colonel Herringham, with a cold definite precision, "that the Germans do sometimes finish off the wounded men they find in the trenches."

"Did that happen in this case?" "We do not know," said Col. Herringham. "We have not yet captured the trenches."

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HARLEY
[From Our Own Correspondent]
Miss Gardham was the guest of Mrs. James Reaveley last week. Miss Teresa Jackson has returned home after visiting at Ingersoll. Mr. and Mrs. H. Bennet and Mr. and Mrs. Swan motored to Brantford on the 24th. Miss Eva Hammond spent Monday in Brantford. Mrs. Gladiator of Hamilton is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Clement of Salem, spent Sunday at Mr. S. Clement's here. Mrs. Marshal Burtis of Hatchley, spent one day with her sister, Mrs. Thomas Geddy. Mr. and Mrs. Will Clement and daughter, Ruby, of Brantford, were

the Sunday guests of Mrs. S. Clement.

VANESSA
[From Our Own Correspondent]
W. R. Bannister has purchased a new Ford car. Mrs. E. S. Birdsall spent a few days last week with her daughter, Mrs. Myerscough of Burtch. Mr. and Mrs. J. Lutes motored to Hartford on Sunday. Byron Cronkwright had the misfortune to lose his driving horse last week. Sam and Mrs. Arthur of Hawtrey spent Wednesday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. McNeilly. A number of Orangemen of the place attended the Orange service at Teeterville Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baker spent Sunday with his father. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Tutt of Kelsey were visiting James Potts on Sunday. We are glad to see Mr. Marsaw again.

"We should all eat more bread, it is cheaper and more nutritious than meat. Make it with PURITY FLOUR."

Joseph Guiry, an aged resident of Enismore township, died as the result of injuries received when an automobile in which he was riding collided with a mailbox post.

The U. S. District Court of Trenton, N.J., decided against the dissolution of the United States Steel Corporation.

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