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Nothing to Eat or Drink and Gun Fire Driving Them Mad

Letters of a German Officer Opposing the British Advance Tells of the Awful Ordeal the Hun Troops Are Going Through in Measuring Themselves Against the Attackers

(By Philip Gibbs)

With the British Armies in the Field, Aug. 25.—We are getting a stronger grip upon the ridge from Pomeroy to High Wood. Last night the Australians gained a little more ground, so that they pushed out a line to the north-east of Mouquet Farm, and the Scottish troops to their right, gained another hundred yards of that famous switchline into which I took a walk the day before yesterday to see how we held the enemy's last line of defence on the way to Martinpuich. The switchline exists only as a name, and is in reality nothing but a series of shell-craters in which our men have to get what cover they can after chasing out the Germans before digging and strengthening an effective trench; but it is the position that counts, and if we can hold it, as I am now certain we shall, it puts the enemy at a great disadvantage, of which our guns are already making full and terrible use.

The enemy's endeavors to counter-attack—he made two last night—have broken down under our fire with great bloodshed, and now it is not in the least likely that he will succeed in wresting back from us any of the high ground.

Positions Very Important.

The importance of the position, of course, is entirely one of observation, apart from the tactical importance of having driven the enemy on to ground beyond his first and second systems of trenches and dug-outs, so that he has retired to a considerable distance. It gives us vantage points from which we can observe his movements down the slope and rake him with rifle and machine gun fire if he sends out working parties, and turn guns on him with direct observation of the results.

One of the immediate effects of being on the Pozieres ridge was seen yesterday when our artillery registered something like twenty-five direct hits upon some of the enemy's batteries. We had a great concentration of guns, from which undoubtedly he will have to withdraw before long.

Germans Torn by Artillery.

A very realistic and tragic picture of what is happening down there beyond the high ridge is given in a letter written on August 10 by a German officer of the 133rd Infantry Regiment. "The strain yesterday," he wrote, "is incredible. The route taken, Ligny, Warlecourt, Pys, Courcellette, on the way to the trenches was very dangerous. During the first part the thunder of guns was very disagreeable, and the second part was very unsafe. Heavy shells fell right and left of the road. Mounted troops, cars, field-kitchens, infantry in the column of route were all enveloped in the impenetrable cloud of dust. The last stage consisted of troops in single file crawling on the slope beside the road with shells bursting overhead. Close to Courcellette the message arrived: "Enemy firing gas shells; on with your helmets." It appeared to be an error.

"To-night I am taking my platoon out to form a covering party. My men and I are to lie in shell holes in part of an old demolished-trench of ours. The British are 400 metres away. Hundreds of dead bodies make the air terrible, and there are flies in thousands. About 300 metres from us is a deserted artillery position. We shall have to look to it to-night not to get taken prisoners by the British. We have no dugouts. We dig a hole in the side of a shell hole and lie and get rheumatism. We get nothing to eat or drink, and the ceaseless roar of guns is driving us mad. Many of our men are knocked out. The Company Commander thinks we were breathing gas yesterday, which slowly decomposes the blood, and this is an end of one. What variety of ways one can lose one's life in this place!"

Tribute to Halg's Airmen.

From another man in the 3rd Battalion of the 124th Regiment is a letter which pays a doleful tribute to our flying men:

"I am on sentry duty, and it is a very hard job, for I dare not move. Overhead are British airmen and in front of us are British observers with

Escaped German Has Been Captured

One of Four Germans Who Made Dash for Liberty at Amherst

AMHERST, N.S., Aug. 26.—Otha Bauermeister, one of the four German prisoners who jumped from the train which was taking them to the Experimental Farm on Wednesday morning, was recaptured near Nappia and traces of his three companions have been found in the same vicinity, so it is believed that all the members of the quartette will be back at the Internment Station within a very short time, says the Guardian.

When retaken Bauermeister was suffering a good deal from an injury to one of his feet which was sustained when he jumped from the moving train. In some way when he jumped one of his heels was quite badly injured and must have caused him considerable pain during the time that he was at liberty and seeking to make good his escape. At all events, it is said that he was not altogether sorry to be recaptured and thus brought within reach of a doctor's care.

It is said that one of the quartette is now on his second dash for freedom. He was one of the men who made an escape some months ago when he and his companions were finally caught in a rowboat off the St. John county coast. He has a good knowledge of English and is doubtless the ring-leader in the present escape. The comrades with him are said to have had slight knowledge of English and, hence, should be more easily detected.

The description of the missing prisoners is as follows: Augustus Myers, aged 30, 5 feet 6 inches tall, blonde hair and complexion; Roland Noplin, weight 160, 5 feet 5 inches tall, brown hair, blue eyes, fair complexion; Kurt Becker, aged 23, 145 pounds, 5 feet 5 inches tall, dark brown hair, blue eyes, fair complexion.

The men made their escape from the train of the box car in which they and their comrades were being taken to the farm, then drawing the bolt on the outside of the door and jumping from the car not far from the Victor Woodworks. They got into the woods before their escape was detected.

telescopes, and as soon as they perceive anything twenty-four cigars arrive at once, and larger than one cares to see. The country round me looks frightful. Many dead bodies belonging to both sides lie around."

Our gunners are punishing the enemy in a very frightful way, and the ground above Thiepval, Courcellette and Martinpuich and the barren ground to the right of it is swept by our shell fire.

Sometimes a cigar draws better than the actor it is named after.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

Courses of lectures covering the requirements of the Licentiate in Arts of the Council of Higher Education and of the Second or Sophomore year in certain Canadian Universities will be organized for the next Academic year, beginning October 1st, 1916, and ending April 30th, 1917. The following and possibly other subjects will be included: English, Mathematics, Latin, French, Physics, Chemistry, Geology and Mineralogy. Candidates passing successfully through such of these courses of lectures as are required for the Second Year in Arts in the Universities, will be admitted as Third Year students in the Universities, provided they are otherwise qualified. Each of the lecture courses will be open to qualified students, whether they have graduation in view or not.

For further information, application should be made as early as possible to one of the Superintendents of Education. jne29,t,ff

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HOW KITCHENER MET HIS DEATH

First Eye Witness Story of the Great Tragedy—Inspiring Account of Happening That Shocked the World

"The actual tragedy (the drowning of Lord Kitchener) occurred between Brough of Birsay and Marwick Head, at a spot known as Fri, and I thoroughly examined the whole of this coast, dwellings of farmers and fishermen and I think I have covered every inch of territory.

"I visited the spot on Fri, where H. M. S. Hampshire went down. It is an extraordinary thing that on the day I went to the spot there was a peculiar smooth surface on the water immediately above the wreck contrasting with the boiling surf around. This could only suppose was caused by oil escaping from the Hampshire.

Occurred Near To Land

"The tragedy was emphasized by the fact that it occurred so near to land and in sight of so many houses. I found that many persons actually witnessed the tragedy. Yet, very few were saved. The Bisy people with whom I talked were grief-stricken at the idea that this accident should occur on their shores and they unable to save more, but it was a matter of the winds and that the tide and the direction that the rafts were taking after leaving the wreck. The people on the shore, after witnessing the wreck thought for a while that the rafts were coming to land on their coast, so they actually all went to bed, after they saw the survivors drifting in another direction, never dreaming that the wind was to change suddenly in the night and bring them to their very shores.

Two Explosions.

"I now quote you the story of the tragedy as it was told me by an eyewitness, a sister of Mr. Robert Spence of Kirkwall, a well known merchant of that place.

"My residence is very near the place where the Hampshire went down. I stood outside my house and witnessed the accident. It so upset me that I was ill for many days afterwards. I saw the warship steaming along alright at first. Then there was a sudden blaze and a tremendous lot of smoke. Then there was a second blaze and more smoke. The explosion was no so very loud, but it came to my ears. It appeared to myself and friends that the vessel's bow was entirely blown away with the first explosion because the ship immediately went down by the bow, and we lost sight of that part of the ship first. We then saw the four rafts leaving the vessel, and the wind and tide immediately swung them away in the direction of Stromness or Hovø.

"It was one o'clock next day before I heard that the rafts had come in at Sandwick. A relative of mine went at once to the spot and gave all the help to the shipwrecked sailors that he could. One of the sailors who just managed to land alive ran up to a house and rapped the people up, crying "Come and save my comrades!" "Come and save my comrades!" He had no clothing on whatever. Every stitch had been torn off by the sea, and he was bleeding from his wounds. The people begged him to come inside and get more clothing on, but he turned quickly and ran again for the shore, crying all the time "Oh, save my comrades! Oh! save my comrades!" The man of the house quickly followed him to the shore and gave every stitch of clothing he had to clothe those who had no clothing on.

Trawlers Busy Sweeping Mines

"Trawlers were very busy sweeping mines from about the spot where the Hampshire was lost. One day they got as many as eleven mines and another say six. One of the trawlers struck a mine just about a day or so after the Hampshire went down."

"A niece of Mr. Spence's also saw this trawler go down. She was watching the sweeping up of mines. There was not a speck of the trawlers to be seen after they saw smoke. Another trawler hastened to the spot but all they saw was only half of the body of a dead sailor.

"The Orkneys have been infested by floating mines during the past year. There was a mine exploded on the Isle of Enballow one night between nine and ten o'clock. The explosion lifted tons of rocks and blew them away. There was another mine exploded in Sandwick and another in the Orkneys as to the loss of the Hampshire and Earl Kitchener's death."

No Excuse Whatever.
New York Man—Are you going to be at home this evening?
New York Girl—Why should I? I feel perfectly well.

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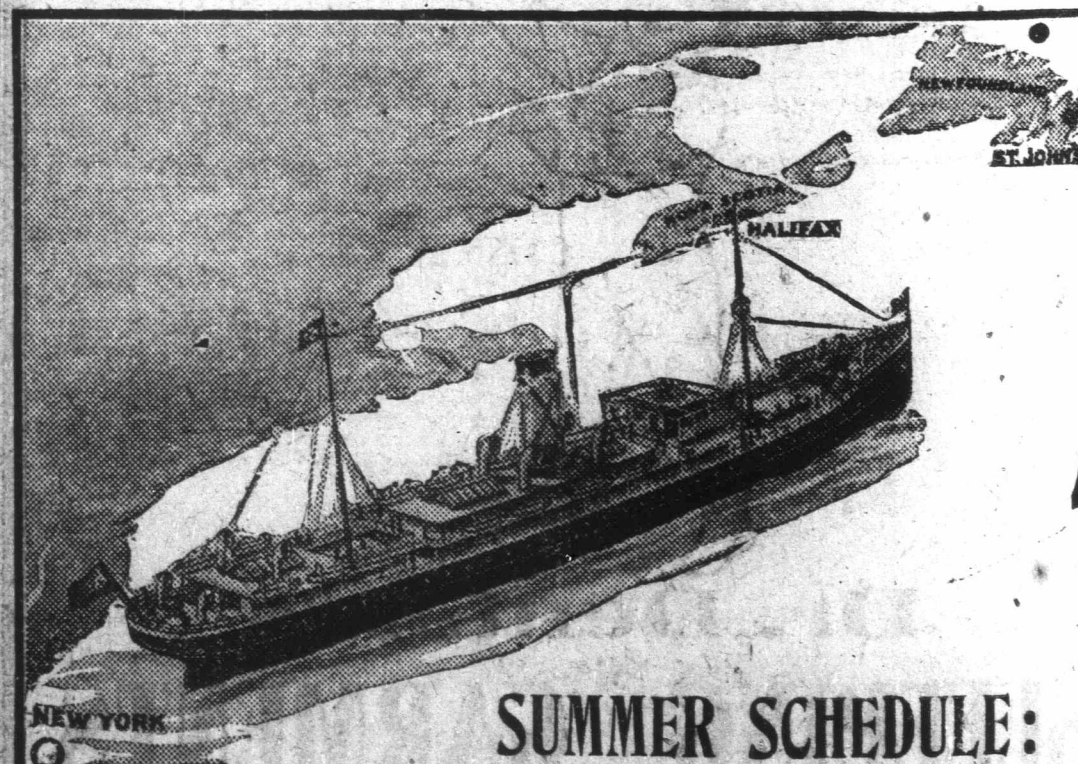
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