

# The Victory at Neuve Chapelle

## A Story of Fighting by an Eye Witness

"This war is a life and death struggle between entire nations, in which all the resources of every combatant are or should be mobilized. In the end not only will victory depend very largely on the action of the artillery but will depend equally on the provision and maintenance of artillery ammunition, which action is up to the manufacturer and the man in the workshop."

London, March 21.—An official eye-witness account of British operations on the western front, dated March 19, has been issued by the Press Bureau. In connection with the reports of the recent fighting it gives the following explanation of the heavy losses of officers:

### Terrible German Losses

"The attempt succeeded so far as the latter sector was concerned, for the trenches had been blown in and were absolutely untenable. To the east of the village, however, our infantry made a most determined stand. Their fire was so steady and well-directed that the losses among the assailants were terrible. Our men sticking to their posts until the last—in fact until they were overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers."

"The Germans then rushed supports to the trenches and also to a mound which had been blown up by a mine. Following up their success, they penetrated into the village itself."

### Attack by 200 Germans

"During the 15th the enemy made a last effort to recover the ground by assault. Presumably it was not intended to be more than a forlorn hope, for only 200 men took part."

"Prisoners captured during the fighting said the German losses were very great, the supports suffering especially severely from our shell fire."

"Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th, passed quietly, except for a heavy shelling of the various points, especially in Neuve Chapelle."

"On the morning of the 17th 200 Germans took advantage of the misty weather to try and reach their own trenches by advancing across the open near La Tanquet. They were seen and fire was opened on them."

### Tribute to Officers

"It is unnecessary to speak of the gallantry of regimental officers throughout the fighting. The casualty lists tell their own tale of the heavy toll among them, largely due to the fact that in advancing over intricate country, intersected with hedges and ditches, platoon commanders had to go forward to reconnoitre the ground and discover the best way to circumvent these obstacles without getting their men crowded together in narrow places such as gaps in hedgerows and bridges. This naturally entailed exposure. The success achieved and the extraordinary spirit shown by our troops are the best proof of the qualities displayed by their leaders."

### Barricaded in the Streets

"The fighting at St. Eloi was of the fiercest description. Gaining the place, the Germans erected barricades across the streets, which they defended by machine guns. These had to be stormed one by one, our men coming on from time to time regardless of losses until the village was cleared of the enemy."

"The next morning the Germans displayed a humanity which unfortunately is not always shown by them and refrained from firing on our stretcher-bearer parties, who were engaged in carrying away the wounded within quite close range of the enemy's guns."

### A Dramatic Scene

"In spite of the generally monotonous character of the present stages of the war there have been some dramatic moments. One such immediately preceded the attack on Neuve Chapelle on the 10th. When our infantry were awaiting the order to assault and were watching the bombardment they could see our shells bursting in the thick veil of smoke and dust which hung over the German trenches. As the minutes wore on and as the artillery fire grew hotter and hotter, and the time grew nearer for the rush forward, excitement rose to fever heat."

"Our men jumped on the parapets, brandishing their rifles toward the Germans, shouting remarks which were drowned in the roar of the guns. When the rush was actually made our losses were trifling. Only in subsequent events were there any heavy casualties."

"The effect of the victory of Neuve Chapelle has been remarkable. It has caused the troops who by no means were depressed to become even more elated and filled them with confidence. In spite of the unusually heavy losses, the effect of the recent fighting on the Germans is impossible to gauge, though they are stubborn folk and not easily downcast."

### When Yards Count

"The operations of the last few days cannot have been encouraging. The form of warfare which the operations have developed approximates that of a siege. There is very much fighting at close range and the possession of a single yard of ground counts, because it may enable the possessor to act against other points with greater effect than he could have otherwise done."

"The British army in France is now determined to fight, kill and knock out as many Germans as possible with the least possible loss to ourselves. The duty before the British nation is by every means in its power to back up and help the soldiers do this."

"The outstanding lesson of this war as in other wars, has been the value of preparation, and the direction in which preparation has chiefly affected operations has lain in the possession of guns and ammunition."

"Nowadays, Providence lies on the side with the big battery rather than on the side of the big battalions. This is due partly to the devastating effect of modern guns and the mechanical traction which enables them to be brought to the field of battle."

### Trench Attacks Made Easy

"The strongest entrenched positions can be carried with less loss to the attackers than to the defenders if the assault is sufficiently prepared by artillery. Under such conditions any counter-attack made by the defenders to regain their losses is almost bound to fail with immense loss to those attempting it."

"This is a life and death struggle between entire nations, in which all the resources of every combatant are or should be mobilized. In the end not only will victory depend very largely on the action of the artillery, but will depend equally on the provision and maintenance of artillery ammunition, which action is up to the manufacturer and the man in the workshop at home."

### REAR ADMIRAL DE ROBECK

Rear Admiral John Michael de Robeck, who succeeds Vice-Admiral Carden in command of the Dardanelles fleet, has had the distinction of having had, in 1912, a new post especially created for him. This was Admiral of Patrols, whose duty it was to command four flotillas of destroyers of the home squadron.

The Rear-Admiral is an Irishman and the brother of Baron de Robeck. His title, however, is Swedish. The sailor brother was born in 1862 at Gowran Grange, Naas, Ireland. He was a Cadet on H. M. S. Britannia in 1875, and became Rear-Admiral four years ago.

It is interesting to note that his great-grandfather fought in the American revolution on the side of the colonists. He was a cornet of cavalry in the Swedish army and joined, with the permission of his King, a French Dragoon regiment sent to this country under Rochambault. For his services he received an American pension. At the end of the war, having fallen in love with a beautiful Irish girl, the daughter and heiress of a younger brother of the Earl of Upper Ossory, he emigrated to Ireland, married her and became a naturalized British subject. His son, the grandfather of Rear-Admiral de Robeck, served under the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War.

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## "OURS" IN THE WEST END

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# A Day With Russians On Banks of the Pruth

(From "The Daily Chronicle" Special Correspondent, M. H. Donohoe.)

Novo Seltiza (Russia), Feb. 27.—I have spent the day in the Russian positions on the left (east) bank of the Pruth through the kindness of the general commanding. Cross the Austrian frontier I found myself once more in Bukowina, at least in that position which is still in Russian possession.

The valley of the Pruth separates the two hostile armies. It has been a cold day, though the sun has shone brilliantly for the first time in some weeks—adding an iridescent gleam to the light that lay on the snow-covered land.

From Bojan, the Austrian railway station on the Czernowitz line, which is opposite Mamornitza in Rumania, the Pruth follows a winding course eastward and southward. The river banks are clothed in a sparse brushwood which shows brown against the background of white. There the outposts of the rival armies find tolerably snug cover where the valley dips gently to the left bank.

Dead Under the Snow

On my right, as I look down to the river, there is a sharp ascent to the wide plateau commanding Czernowitz.

Here, in the early days of the war, the Russians forced a passage of the river and drove the Austrians before them. The battlefield of that time is now a vast cemetery, hundreds of crosses marking where the Austrian dead sleep.

I found the Russians in good spirits, well housed, well fed, warmly clad. I inspected the soldiers' quarters; I entered houses where men on trench duty are accommodated between whiles; houses which they had stove-heated to the temperature of a Turkish bath; I ate of their rye bread and cabbage soup. This soup, highly flavored is a staple diet of the Russian soldier on active service.

The general had delegated a colonel to act as my guide. We found the men who were off duty whiling away the time playing cards, smoking cigarettes, or strumming on mouth-organs—the favorite musical instrument of the soldiers of the Tsar.

"Little Father"

In this corner of the warfield I have noticed, among the Russians, a certain tone of paternal familiarity between officers and men which I had not observed elsewhere save in the Japanese army. "Good morning, children," was the colonel's customary salutation on entering the men's quarters; and the latter would spring to attention and rap out in staccato unison, "Good morning, little father."

These were the men who fought so bravely lately during the retreat through Bukowina. The Russian soldier seems a big, simple-minded child, full of courage, who obeys without question, who will follow his officers to the death with the same nonchalance as he will exhibit in rolling a cigarette. His patience and endurance un-

## THE KAISER

Who hugged us to his martial breast,  
And on our cheeks false kisses pressed,  
And said that Brotherhood was best?  
The Kaiser.

When wiser patriots raised the cry  
That Prussia plotted on the sky,  
Who said it was a cruel lie?  
The Kaiser.

Who manufactured mammoth guns,  
And served out "fire sticks" to his  
Huns,  
And made swashbucklers of his sons?  
The Kaiser.

Who ultimately showed his cards,  
And, buttered by Teutonic bards,  
Dropped air bombs in suburban  
yards?  
The Kaiser.

Who swore to grind us into dust,  
But found our land of rot and rust,  
Quite unexpectedly robust?  
The Kaiser.

Who's got to learn a thing or two  
Before we've done with him, and who  
Has bitten more than he can chew?  
The Kaiser.

JESSIE POPE.

## U. S. Submarine F-4 Located

Honolulu, March 30.—The American submarine F-4 which was lost off this harbor, was located this afternoon. Heroic efforts were being made tonight to raise the stricken craft but after having been submerged for more than thirty hours it was regarded as doubtful whether any of the crew of 21 men remained alive.

To lift the little vessel to the surface it was found necessary to send to the Pearl Harbor Naval Station for a derrick and crane. This involved much loss of time and it was thought that the fate of the crew might not be determined until daylight.

## Mustered Into Army

Berlin, March 28.—Dr. Karl Liebknecht, a Socialist member of the Reichstag, has been mustered into the army as a member of a Landsturm regiment and assigned to service in Alsace.

## The Hague Peace Palace

Unattended, silent, brooding  
On failure to meet its needs,  
It rises gaunt, like a ghostly haunt,  
Out of a waste of weeds.

Unkempt are its peace kept gardens,  
Its fountains are filled with dust,  
Its dead vines fall from trellis and  
wall,  
Its bronzes are red with rust.

The spiders have woven their fabric  
Across every window pane,  
And shutters than hang by a tenuous  
hang,  
While their hinges screech with  
pain.

The bittern booms in its shadow,  
It breathes the air of decay,  
The fitting bats and the prowling cats  
Have driven the Dove away.

Unattended, silent, useless,  
A relic that no-one keeps,  
Outside of its gate, and desolate,  
Its Founder stands and weeps.

—New York Sun.

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