

ARTILLERY FIRE AND BARRIERS CHARGED

Sixteen-Year-Old German Boys Bravely Storm and Die in British Trenches.

LOSSES SHOWING EFFECT

Youths Unable to Withstand Fatigue of Battlefield and Middle-Aged Men Lack Ardor, Says London Press Bureau.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—The official press bureau has issued the following account, dated November 10, of the movements of the British and French armies in immediate touch with it:

"In describing the operations for the six days from November 4 to 9 it can be said that during that period the Germans have nowhere along our front made any attack of any consequence. The French army has been in the line since the end of October. What they may be contemplating remains to be seen. Their policy has appeared to be to wear us out by a continual bombardment, interspersed with local assaults at different points.

"As regards their artillery attacks, which have now continued without cessation for days, wonder is aroused as to when this prodigious expenditure of ammunition will cease. It has not. Its obviously calculated effect was to break the defense in preparation for an advance of their infantry.

"Infantry Suffers Greatest. "So far the infantrymen have been the chief sufferers from the tactics employed. On November 4 the British renewed their attack east of Ypres, but their effort bore no resemblance to those which preceded it, being more in the nature of a demonstration in force than serious attempt to drive in our line, and was beaten off with ease.

"Further to the south of our left center the French advanced under cover of our guns and made some progress, in spite of the heavy fire brought to bear on them from the enemy's massed batteries. On our center all was quiet.

"On our right our Indian troops scored a success by capturing and filling in some trenches in which the enemy had established himself only 50 yards from our line.

"Artillery Shows Retreating Foes. "At one place the gaunt wreck of an old church tower and the blackened remains of a few houses which would remain for a moment, only to be again blotted out in a pall of smoke.

"The long and straggling villages, when they became temporarily visible, seemed to melt away and assume odd and fantastic shapes as the houses crumbled and blocks of masonry were thrown hither and thither by the blasting effect of the Lydite and melinite.

"The result of the allies' artillery work was most satisfactory. When the Germans were seen to be running from shelter which had ceased to act as such, they were caught and mowed down by the rapid fire of the French field artillery. Against a suitable target the action of the French 75-centimeter field guns is generally terrific and must be seen to be realized.

"On the whole, the ground which the Germans have gained in this direction has so far proved somewhat barren acquisition. It is so exposed that it proves a death trap for their troops and they can derive no advantage from its possession.

"Aviators Destroy Forts. "All along the rest of our line nothing of special interest occurred. "Further south our aeroplanes and those of the French scored some success by destroying partially two of the old forts of Lille. Fort Englos was blown up on the 4th and Fort Carnot on the 8th. They probably were used as machine gun emplacements and were of some tactical importance in the line of entrenchments.

"On Friday, the 6th, the attack was renewed south of the Menin-Ypres high road, but was repulsed without difficulty. Against the southern end of Ypres, which town had been subjected to a bombardment during the night and was also shelled during the day, a fairly strong advance was made in the afternoon and the enemy gained some ground.

"The French, however, made a counter stroke, supported by us, and by nightfall had recovered all the lost ground. A French attack on two villages which had been shelled Thursday made considerable progress, one point being captured, but the enemy contrived to render the position untenable, and our allies had retired from the hill by dusk.

"Lost Ground Is Regained. "On our center nothing of particular interest occurred. On our right, south of the Lyse, the enemy made two unsuccessful night attacks.

"On Saturday the 8th, on our left, the enemy in the afternoon again attacked the east and southern ends of Ypres along the Menin road. Our line was at one point forced back, but the ground lost was regained after a few minutes.

"Slightly further to the south the fighting continued with unabated fury, and resulted in gains to our allies. About 400 of the enemy advanced from the cover of a wood against the French. Half of them with the most reckless bravery came on to close quarters and were all shot or bayoneted. A tremendous cannonade was maintained by both sides in this direction.

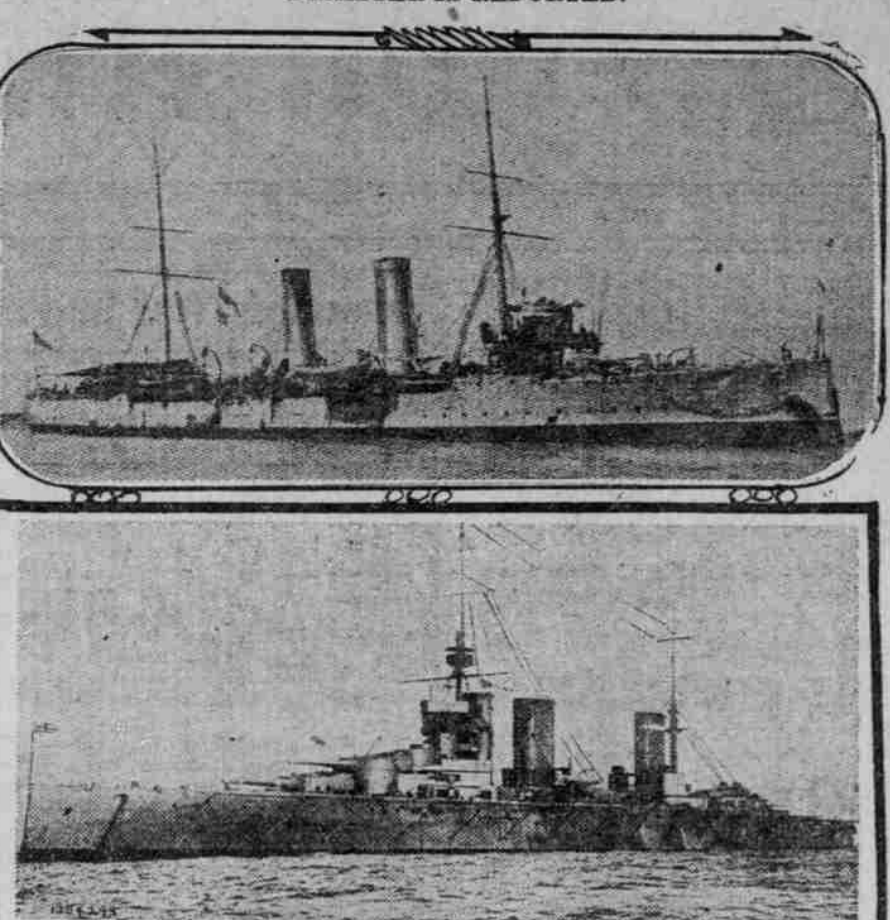
"Three machine guns were captured by us during the day. On the center there was a recrudescence of activity on the enemy's part. During the previous night some six battalions of Saxons had succeeded in capturing some of our trenches, only to be driven out by a counter attack, which resulted in one officer and 70 men being taken prisoners.

"The Germans, however, refused to accept defeat, and, returning to the charge, again occupied some of our trenches and penetrated into the wood. They were again counter-attacked and cleared out of the wood, but continued in possession of parts of our line and also some houses which commanded them.

"Youthful Prisoners Taken. "Further south, the enemy again behaved with great boldness, sapping up to within a few yards of our front trenches. Some of the prisoners captured on this day were very young. They stated that their corps had lately been brought up to strength with new recruits who had received only a few weeks' training.

"Throughout the recent fighting, Sunday has proved a day of activity, and the eighth of November was no exception to the rule. At 2:30 P. M. the daily attack on our line was made, this time in force to the north of the Menin-Ypres High Road and again the enemy succeeded temporarily in piercing our front. They were driven back, however, and all the ground lost by us was regained before dark. After this were counted 107 dead Germans were counted.

BRITISH DREADNOUGHT LOST AND FIGHTING SHIP TO WHICH DISASTER IS REPORTED.



ABOVE—CRUISER BRILLIANT. BELOW—BATTLESHIP AUDACIOUS.

In front of one battalion. It is calculated that on Sunday their casualties in killed and wounded in front of one small section of our line were about 1200.

"Ypres itself was again subjected to heavy shelling and some damage was done to the town.

"Ypres Apparently Doomed. "Monday, the 9th, was a comparatively quiet day. On our left the shelling was less in this direction. The Germans for the time being desisted from making attacks in force and confined their effort to the destruction of Ypres, which with Louvain and Rheims is apparently to be included among the monuments to German culture.

"On our right during the night of November 8-9 a German trench was captured, and the situation did not alter. Night attacks have been of regular occurrence at different points and are made apparently more with a view to annoying our troops and preventing them from sleeping, than with any other object. Sometimes, of course, the advance has been of a more serious nature and has been carried out by large bodies.

"In such cases the Germans have, so far, invariably been heavily, and even if they have succeeded in gaining our first line of trenches they have almost always been driven out again. The proportionately more costly and even more useless than the heavier attacks.

"Similar tactics were a feature of the fighting on the Aisne, and to judge by the diaries we have obtained from German soldiers their futility is fully appreciated by the men.

"Foes Close Together. "The front lines of both sides are now at many points so close that our men amuse themselves by listening to what goes on in the enemy's trenches. The Germans frequently cheer themselves up with music or singing, while on one occasion the usual course was a firing of a mortar, which culminated in a free fight.

"On the whole there is evidence to show that the Germans are beginning to feel the effects of their losses. From prisoners it is gathered that the young men of the new corps cannot withstand the fatigues and privations of campaigning, and that the middle-aged men lack ardor. From the same source also it is learned that the recruits who have not previously served have only a faint idea of the nature of the training prescribed for them, that they have had practically no instruction in musketry and that they have not practiced trenching.

"On the other hand, too much can be made of slight changes in the present condition of the enemy. They still are fighting with a stubbornness and recklessness which, whatever its utility, is practically useless, and they are forestalled by a large proportion consists of comparatively untrained men.

"Courage Is Illustrated. "The following two incidents will serve to illustrate their courage: During the fighting near Ypres a force consisting of about one company of infantry advancing against us was engaged by one of our machine guns, with the result that they were all killed, except one man, who crawled away wounded. The corpses lay in a regular row.

"Another nightfall another company, nothing daunted, advanced and dug themselves in on the line upon which the bodies of their comrades were lying.

"Again, on the 4th of November, some of the enemy's cavalry at dusk charged a trench held by the French. Every horse was killed, but those who were not hit continued and charged on foot, the last survivors being slain on the very practicality of the trench.

"Whatever deterioration there may be in the material now being drafted into the ranks of our enemy, it must not be mistaken that the Prussian machine acting on a nation previously injured to the sternest discipline, has obtained the most remarkable results.

"However, in the present time, been able to make good their losses, to continue to deliver repeated blows with fresh men, when required and where required, and to concentrate large forces in different directions.

"Hasty Training Indicated. "It is true that a considerable proportion of the masses recently thrown into the field against the British consisted of hastily trained men and immature men, but the great fact remains that these ill-assorted levies have not hesitated to advance against the trained troops. In spite of lack of officers, in spite of inexperience, boys of 16 and 17 have faced our guns, have marched steadily up to the front, and our rifles and have met death in droves without flinching.

"Such is the effect of a century of national discipline. That the men subjected to it are the victims of an autocratic military caste does not alter the fact that they are a nation which, as necessary to the attainment of national ideals.

"However discordant are the elements which make up the German Empire, by force of the Prussian war machine they have one and all been welded together to fight for national existence, and by their action it is evident that for them "Deutschland uber alles" is no empty cry.

"Canal Income Is \$746,792. "WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Tolls amounting to \$735,182 were collected from vessels using the Panama Canal between August 15 and November 1. Before the canal was opened to merchant ships \$11,610 had been collected on large traffic, making the gross income to November 1 total \$746,792.

GERMAN EXPERTS GUARD ART TREASURES

German Commission and Belgian Leaders Co-operate in Rescuing Masterpieces.

CONSERVATION IS PURPOSE

During Conflagration at Louvain Germans Alone Carry Impelled Treasures to Safety, Says James O'Donnell Bennett.

BY JAMES O'DONNELL BENNETT, War Correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, Printed by Arrangement With the Tribune.

BRUSSELS, Oct. 19.—It was intensely characteristic of the German love of method that even when the city streets were booming around Antwerp and the occasional franc tireur was crouching behind the hedges, an imperial art commission should have come into Belgium from Berlin on a mission of conservation.

Its duty was to catalogue and transport to places of safety all works of art and ecclesiastical treasures which lay in the war zone.

On the testimony of the Belgian clergy and civil authorities this work has been done in no high-handed manner, but has been carried on by means of the German privy councilor, Dr. Otto von Falke, who is head of the commission, and the various priests, bishops and burgomasters whom it was fitting to consult in the matter.

Purpose Is Conservation. The purpose of the commission has been not confiscation but conservation. It has often been noted that the Belgian leaders in church and state have expressed satisfaction with the German scheme and have shown alacrity and good will in forwarding it.

Dr. von Falke spoke with special pleasure of the attitude of Professor Nees, the new burgomaster of Antwerp. Dr. von Falke said that the professor displayed a most intelligent understanding not only of the historical and artistic value of the treasures from St. Peter's Church which have been entrusted to his care, but of the purpose of the German government in forwarding them.

The preservation of works which convey a special glory on many a remote and probably endangered Belgian village which is in no position to protect its own inheritance in these troublous times.

Consentance Is Belgian. The Germans have in no case taken permanent possession of the treasures which they have removed from the city. Invariably the consignee has been the Belgian himself, as represented either by a local pastor or burgomaster or by the curator of the Royal Picture Gallery in Brussels.

In some instances altar furnishings of the churches have been removed from the churches to the storerooms of the Hotel de Ville nearby, as was the case at Louvain, or they have been deposited in the vaults maintained in the Rue de la Regence, Brussels, by the curator of the royal gallery.

Soldiers Save Works of Art. During the conflagration at Louvain only Germans went into the Church of St. Peter, and Germans alone carried the imperiled treasures across the street to the Hotel de Ville. The masterpieces of Diak, Bels—the "Last Supper" (1467) and the "Martyrdom of St. Erasmus"—were saved by two German officers, one of whom was a student of art. The other was an over-tenant of reserves, Mr. Thelemann, of the Ministry of Railways in Berlin. All the silver of the church was saved.

Dr. von Falke formerly was director of the Museum of Industrial Arts of Prussia. He prepared for the Tribune the following brief synopsis of the long report sent to the imperial authorities in Berlin:

Experts Visit Belgian Cities. The following cities, together with their art treasures and memorials, were visited and examined in Belgium by art experts of the imperial civil government: Liege, Huy, Namur, Mons, Louvain, Dinant, Malines, Saventhen, Nivelles, Ghimbergen, Vilvoorde, Hal, Braine-la-Comte and various smaller places.

At Liege the churches and works of art suffered no damage. All church treasures were left where they belonged under the protection of the clergy and the supervision of the German authorities. The museums are closed and guarded.

Famous Church Uninjured. "At Huy the famous early Gothic collegiate church is wholly intact. No part of the city has suffered by the war. The church treasures were hidden when the war broke out and are in safety.

"At Namur the treasures of the cathedral and the nuns' cloister were also concealed under the direction of the bishop and are safe. Churches and the museum are in perfect condition.

"At Dinant the beautiful cathedral lost its roof as a result of the burning of the city, but the interior is not seriously damaged. The church treasures are in the custody of the pastor.

Altar Taken to Brussels. "At Saventhen the 'Martins altar,' an earlier masterpiece of Van Dyck, was, for better safeguarding against the dangers of war, removed to the Royal Belgian Picture Gallery in Brussels.

"In the village of Eppenghen, which lay in the battlefield district, two altar pictures were saved by German soldiers and consigned to the storerooms of the Royal gallery in Brussels.

"In Vilvoorde the church containing the beautiful choir stalls remains intact.

"Furthermore, the churches and works of art at Hal, Mons, Nivelles and Ghimbergen are not in the least damaged.

"At Malines, which was several times under artillery fire, the cathedral was damaged, but can be repaired without much effort. One day after the capture of the city it was fired upon by the Belgians. As a rule the ancient structures of the city did not suffer.

"At Louvain the library, as previously reported, was burned. The Church of St. Peter lost its roof by fire and is otherwise damaged in part. It can be repaired.

Famous Paintings Preserved. "All the art treasures of this church, such as the famous paintings by Dirck, Bot and the 'Madonna of the Milk,' the valuable silver church treasures, the choir stalls, the organ dating from the 16th century, and the stained glass

The Return of a Prodigal

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were saved by German officers. All these are under the supervision and protection of the burgomaster of Louvain and are stored at the city hall. All other Louvain churches and their treasures are wholly intact.

"It is apparent that on the whole the losses of and damage to ancient works of art and treasures in Belgium are fortunately not great.

"The official arrangements and plans for the safe keeping and control of works of art are to be continued by the imperial civil government.

"DR. VON FALKE. "It is a curious fact that the appointment and the work of this commission were regarded as so much a matter of course by the German government that up to this date of this dispatch the authorities have given no statement of the facts to the German press.

GERMAN DEAD BURNED FAST Swiss Press Says Trainloads of Bodies Are Rushed to Furnaces.

GENEVA, Switzerland, Nov. 16.—The National Swiss today publishes a long letter from a Swiss who is doing Red Cross work at Brussels. An extract from the letter says:

"The number of German wounded arriving here is unimaginable. Trains, which we call cemetery trains, full of piled-up dead soldiers, continue to arrive from the front. They contain bundles of dead; that is, four bodies tied together to facilitate transport.

"The bodies are burned promptly in special furnaces erected just outside Brussels.

Japanese Airman May Fly. HONOLULU, Nov. 16.—Japanese aviators here may resume air flights provided they do not signal warships. Orders to this effect were received from the Japanese government.

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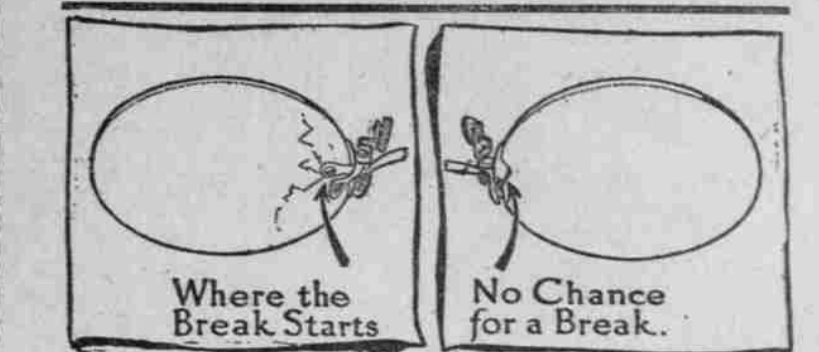
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Washington today. The activities of the Japanese aviators were curtailed recently owing to fears of the authorities that they would communicate with the Japanese battleship Hizen and the cruiser Asama, then off the harbor. Those warships are no longer here.

There are many indications that the ancient American Indians were good farmers.

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