BRITISH IN TRENCH AWAIT "BIG PUSH"

Tommy Atkins Says Deadly Fighting Will Begin When England Sends Forces.

SOLDIERS AMID MUD CLEAN

Thoroughness of Work Amazes Correspondent Who Visits Trenches as Bullets Sing and German Shells Whiz By.

BY FREDERICK PALMER.
Associated Press Correspondent at the British Front in France.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, via London, March 9.—"There you are and keep your head down! It is a fair target at that distance," said the officer who had come out of the shelter to meet the newspaper correspondents who were being permitted to visit the trenches.

The correspondents were in the defenses at the edge of a hardwood grove called the Ploegsteert Woods. The British had fought fiercely in order to get possession of this grove for it meant cover for them. Occasionally, bullets whistled overhead and the swish of German shells, which were being fired at something in the rear, passed higher up, while a hidden British battery was sending its shells in the opposite direction.

Watchers Ready With Rifles.

At intervals in the defenses, the men were waiting with rifles laid, to plug any moving thing that looked like a "Gerboy."

"If a Gerboy helmet appears can you put a hole through it?" was asked of one of the riflemen.

"It looks so. They don't put them up very often, sir," was the answer.

Two hundred and fifty yards away was a wall of sandbags. The bare field between the two lines was as lifeless as a desert and for all one could see, the German breastwork was not occupied by a single human being. But there, as on the British side, sharpshooters were waiting and officers were watching through the refracting mirrors of the periscopes.

Attack Always Awaited.

For three months the trenches have remained in the same position, and never a moment in all that time, here as elsewhere along the line, but some one is on the lookout and the reserves are ready for an attack.

"Here we will be until the big push comes," say the men. By the "big push" they refer to the movement when the new British force is in the trenches.

At night German patrols creep out to see if the British are up to anything new and the British do likewise. Sometimes some of the men are killed.

Those who are not on watch are lounging on beds of straw under the timber roofs. To the rear, there are many more shelters where officers and men are quartered. One old South African veteran was planting primroses on the earth roof of his house. "It is getting primrose time at home in England," he said.

Bang of Guns Mars Peace.

Except for the thresh of shells and the bang of the guns, the scene is most peaceful. When the Germans cut loose with some thrills of the rapid-fire guns or begin shelling, the men take to their shelters until the storm is over. They are always in danger from sniping and are likely to be called at any minute to suffer heavy losses in repelling an attack. They are veterans who cease to think of possibilities.

"If you are killed, why you are killed," says Tommy Atkins, "and what's the use in worrying about it? The more you worry, the better it pleases the Germans."

From Mons to Ypres the British regular gained familiarity with death. Very proud are the men who have stuck it through from the time of the British landing until now. When one of them was asked about it he said: "Just luck, that's all. Maybe I'll get it from a sniper before this Winter is over."

Profanity too Costly.

At night the work in the neighborhood of the trenches is done. Across the fire zone behind the trenches, food and timbers and everything needed in the trenches is carried up by hand in a wallow of mud. Yet one hears no one growling or swearing when it would seem that human irritation must have an escape valve.

"Profanity comes too high," said a soldier. "The Gerboys may hear you and turn loose. It may not only cost you your life, but your pals." Anyone who has been much with the British army on campaign has heard the same remark many times and spoken in the same language; it had a peculiar appeal.

With darkness falling over the flat country and the buildings becoming shadowy, the correspondents walked away from the cover of a village with the commanding officer of that section of the front with the rattle of a machine gun growing louder toward the trench. Whenever anyone goes to the front he is bound to hear the machine gun, even in this quiet spot of the front.

"They can't be firing at any definite object in the dark?" queried a correspondent.

Germans Kept Informed.

"Perhaps—perhaps not," the officer replied. "The gun is laid for the top of their trench. We don't hold down the fire too much, as we want the Germans to know we are on deck."

"Are we in bullet range yet?" was asked.

"Rather—500 yards. That's why we don't walk up in the daytime. The flares you see are going up from the German trenches," replied the officer.

These flares, like Fourth of July rockets, threw a glare over the sodden fields and revealed the faces of the correspondents and the officer and outlined their figures.

"In that way they keep watch to see that we are not creeping up for an attack," the officer added.

Men Neat Amidst Mud.

Another 300 yards of plunging in mud and the correspondents descended into the wet earth behind tiers of sandbags and were walking on a board walk at the bottom of a great ditch. Step off that and one sank over his ankles. The commanding officer pulled aside a curtain and a Lieutenant came out of his cellar, looking neat enough for a parade. Neatness under any conditions is a point with the British officer, and he keeps his men up to it. It is amazing how Private Thomas Atkins in this sea of mud keeps clear of it.

"If the men get careless of their appearance in their habits," say the officers, "this means carelessness in the trenches, which would be fatal. Thoroughness of detail and industry are of paramount importance in this kind of war."

Behind curtains in the same kind of cellars as the officers occupy, were soldiers lying on board floors in their blankets above the water line. A subaltern was up for questioning when the commanding officer found one of the pumps was not working. Pumping alone keeps the trenches from being flooded. The commander spoke to every watching man with rifle laid, a "cheery good night," and the soldier returned a cheery reply.

German Flares Light Sky.

On and on in that zigzag ditch in the darkness, slipping off the planks at times, and catching one's self by stretching up the hands for support against the slippery walls, for a mile the visitors proceeded with heads below the parapet, while the German flares lighted the sky and while the British rapid-fire gun whirred at intervals and the German snipers made reply.

Then the correspondents left the trench and wallowed in the mud back to a point in the road outside the bullet range, where a column of sturdy soldiers was waiting before going up for their turn in the trenches. Behind them were supplies for the trenches and an ambulance to care for any wounded who had accumulated during the day in the trenches, or those hurt during the entrance of relief parties or the departure of the men relieved when the German rapid-fire guns sent out a spray of bullets in the hope of finding a target under cover of the night.

The tired men who come out of the trenches find baths and clean clothes awaiting them and have nothing to do but rest until they return to the watch, for the British army regards the care of each man's physical well being as the prime essential.

The trenches to the observer, who sees the British army for the first time, do not supply the most interesting feature. If one seeks picturesqueness it may be found on the road where the French flank and the British line join, where one sees the East Indians, a trotting battery of French artillery, Belgian reservists at work on the road and the British in khaki. In the doorways where he is billeted one finds Tommy Atkins trying to talk French with the inhabitants, driving a big tractor engine made in the United States, riding out to the front in a bus which once plied in London, sitting on the front of an ambulance seat beside the driver when he has only an arm wound, or poking his head out of a shell-proof to see if there is any chance of the rain stopping in Flanders. His remarks about the weather are vigorous.

The extreme thoroughness with which all is done makes a more lasting impression. The fastidiousness about sanitation and the treatment of the wounded recall American methods.

There seems little unnecessary fighting to gain any minor advantage in the trenches. Everything seems submissive to a purpose "when the time comes for the big push," which will see the deadliest fighting of the war.

TREE DESPOILER FOUND

PRISONER ADMITS HAVING RALPH MODJESKI'S GROVE CUT.

Jesse Sharkey Located by Laborers He Ordered to Do Work, Says He Was Hired by Another Man.

Jesse Sharkey, of Sacramento street and Union avenue, arrested Monday, the police say, admits he is the man who ordered workmen to cut down the beautiful grove of fir trees on six lots owned by Ralph Modjeski, the prominent bridge engineer, on Knott street, in Irvington. Whether Sharkey acted on his own responsibility in hiring the workmen without the knowledge of Mr. Modjeski, or whether he had accomplices is a question that will be investigated. He says he was employed for $75 to do the work, but the police doubt his story and question his sanity.

When Mr. Modjeski discovered that his $25,000 building site had been denuded of its stately trees, which to him were its chief attraction, he immediately began an investigation through his attorneys, Platt & Platt. Three laborers who cut down the trees were not suspected of acting maliciously. They had been told to go to Mr. Modjeski for the $50 which had been promised to them for doing the work, and they went, apparently in good faith, to get their money. It was difficult to make the laborers realize that they had been duped, but they agreed to aid in finding the man who had hired them.

Monday the three workmen told P. L. Fales, an attorney in the firm of Platt & Platt, that they had located their employer, who, they said, was Sharkey. He was arrested by Detectives Grism and Howell on a complaint sworn to by Mr. Fales, charging trespass.

"I didn't trespass. I wasn't on the property," was his comment when taken into custody.

Sharkey declared that he had been offered $75 to cut down the trees, the offer coming from a man he didn't know. He said he was a landscape gardener and would lose $2.50 a day if he were locked up. He is 26 years old.

The detectives say they are inclined to doubt Sharkey's story. The records show that he was arrested October 14, 1914, on a charge of immorality, and later examined as to his sanity and released.

ABERDEEN MAYOR LOSES

J. M. PHILLIPS, NEWCOMER, NAMED OVER EUGENE FRANCE.

Prohibition Issue Big Feature of Bitter Primary Campaign, and Caucus Talk Is Heard.

ABERDEEN, Wash., March 9.—(Special.)—In the warmest primary election ever held in this city, J. M. Phillips, a young attorney and formerly a Bull Moose, defeated by 17 votes Mayor Eugene France, a pioneer, who was standing for re-election on an economy platform.

Mr. Phillips carried nine out of 16 precincts. The final vote stood: Phillips 1394, and France 1377. Automobiles were freely used to get out the vote, and in the closing days the contest grew bitter. The race was in Mr. France's favor until the final returns came in, the last precinct to be heard from giving Mr. Phillips more than 100 lead in that precinct. Mr. Phillips carried most of the workingmen's wards.

T. H. Hill, for City Treasurer; Peter Clark, for City Clerk, and Glen Snyder, for Police Judge, were all renominated. Four of the six Councilmen standing for re-election were successful: A. S. Brecht, A. J. Grant, W. J. Egerer and James Empey. R. C. Vandervert lost to W. H. McWhinney, a newcomer, as did L. D. Evans to H. B. Strong. Mr. Phillips was strongly supported by the dry element, and the dry issue was made one of the features of the campaign.

Fight Begun on Unlicensed Movies.

Motion-picture houses running without licenses are the object of a search being made by Fire Marshal Stevens. Mr. Stevens found the first violation Monday on the part of the managers of the Tremont Motion Picture House, Seventy-second street, Southeast. Upon being informed, Captain Circle ordered the place closed by a patrolman and a warrant will be sworn out by Marshall Stevens.

$155,000 LOST IN DOWN-TOWN FIRE

Jones Cash Store Is Destroyed by Flames—Damage to Building Heavy.

FIREBOATS AID IN FIGHT

Barrels of Gasoline in Danger Are Dumped in Willamette; Horses Are Rescued; Revival of Earlier Blaze Adds to Work.

Fire Monday night gutted the three-story brick building occupied by Jones Cash Store, a mail-order house, 80 Front street, corner of Oak, causing the entire loss of the stock, valued by H. J. Ottenheimer, president of the company, at $125,000. Smoke and water caused considerable loss to goods in the store of M. L. Kline, wholesale plumbing, 84 Front street, the adjoining premises. The Jones Cash Store has insurance of approximately $100,000 and the loss to Mr. Kline, which he could not estimate up to a late hour, is covered fully by insurance.

Loss to the building, which is owned by the Failing estate and Reed College, will amount probably to $30,000, which is covered by insurance.

Interior Badly Damaged.

The extent to which the building is damaged will not be known until the walls cool and can be inspected. The brick parts of the structure seemed intact, although the interior woodwork was mostly consumed. The roof was burned through in the rear.

The fire was discovered at 10:27 P. M. by James Markell, employe of Rice & Phelan, a hardware firm just across the street, who was helping unload a carload of wire. He heard a window break in the Jones store and thought of burglars. Investigation showed the place to be afire. He hurried to the police station, two blocks away, and Officer Holland turned in a still alarm at the firehouse adjoining.

Fireboats Aid Department.

A large part of the city's fire-fighting equipment was hurried to the blaze and the two fireboats, David Campbell and George H. Williams, poured streams of water from the river.

The rear end of the building, on the bank of the river, burned fiercest and the work of the fireboats, which turned their searchlights onto the structure through the smoke, made a spectacular sight for East Side people and the crowds which lined the nearby docks.

Chief Dowell, of the fire department, Assistant Chief Laudenklos and Battalion Chief Young directed the work of the firemen. By midnight the blaze was well under control. The fire was kept from spreading to adjoining buildings, although workmen at the American Typefounders' Company, at the south end of the block, fearing it would spread in their direction, rolled 18 drums of gasoline into the river to prevent the fire reaching them. They can be recovered from the bottom of the stream.

Horses Are Rescued.

Officers Harms, Martin and Morris rescued three horses belonging to A. Turtledove, a drayman, which were stabled on a lower dock at the rear of the burning building. A small quantity of harness, valued at not over $100, was burned, but this is covered by insurance.

President Ottenheimer, of the Jones Cash Store, could not understand how the fire started, as the furnace is near the front of the building and the flames were first seen in the rear. The stock is made up of miscellaneous goods of almost every description and offered splendid fuel for the flames.

In the adjoining store of M. L. Kline Miss Ethel Cohn, an employe, worked with Mr. Kline and H. R. Roberts, his brother-in-law, putting away records and papers where they would be safe from the water that dripped down from the adjoining building.

The basement was well filled, but Mr. Kline said his business would not be interfered with in any way. Mr. McCalman, of Failing & McCalman Company, hardware dealers next door, said his store was not affected in any way.

While the fire was at its height, a blaze at the Morgan Paper Company, 230 Second street, which was thought extinguished early Monday, broke out again but was put out by one company in a few minutes. The fire had been smouldering in 10 carloads of paper in the basement which could not well be removed.

150-FOOT LEAP DUE TO WAR

Briton Twice Wrecked Financially Ignores Pastor's Plea to Live.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 9.—Wrecked financially a second time by war when the European struggle, following the Mexican revolutionary strife, swept away his investments, John W. Reid, ex-general manager of a British oil concern, leaped 150 feet to death from the roof of a hotel here yesterday.

Letters he left prove that he chose death as a means to assure his wife, Lillian, of funds through a $10,000 life insurance policy.

Before ending his life Reid telephoned his pastor, Rev. E. P. Ryland, of his intention.

Rev. Mr. Ryland begged him to abandon his intention, or at least wait until a talk could be had. The minister prayed aloud over the telephone for some time, but Reid declined to change his mind.

Reid attempted suicide at the same hotel December 10. Before taking the leap Reid selected a coffin and a burial plot.

ST. PATRICK'S FETE FIXED

California Society Committee Plans Programme for March 17.

As a result of the committee meeting of the California Society of Oregon in room B of the Central Library Monday, a St. Patrick's day programme of cards, dancing and refreshments will be held in the Masonic Temple on March 17.

Plans to increase the membership were acted upon and a campaign is to be started soon. Representatives of the following committees were present: Executive, membership, programme and publicity. The representatives selected the following women to arrange for the refreshments: Mrs. E. Byron, Mrs. R. F. Feemster, Mrs. George Seelig, Mrs. William O. Spencer, Mrs. F. D. Beal, Mrs. C. I. Dolliver and Miss J. H. Boone.

STORAGE APPLES MOVING

Government Finds Firms Withhold Holdings Information.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—According to investigations conducted by the Office of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture, there was an increase in the movement of cold storage apples during January as compared with December. It is impossible to give the total quantities of boxes and barrels in storage on February 1, because many firms withhold information as to their holdings. However, it is thought that a sufficient number are co-operating with the Office of Markets to warrant conclusions as to the total movement throughout the country.

Basing estimates upon the returns from a large number of commercial apple cold storages and granting the conditions for this number are representative of the whole, it appears (1) that holdings on February 1, 1915, were 28.4 per cent greater than on the same date two years ago; (2) that 25.2 per cent of the total holdings have been moved since December 1, the decrease of barreled stock being 28.4 per cent and boxes 1 per cent; (3) that during January 17 per cent of barreled apples and 10.6 per cent of boxed apples were taken out of cold storage, the total decrease on the basis of holdings December 1 being 15.6 per cent.

It was not thought that the demand for cold storage apples in January would be much greater than in December, owing to the fact, as pointed out in a previous report, that the large supply of common storage stock, together with Christmas purchases, would restrict the movement of apples from cold storage during last month. The attention of those interested is called again to the fact that practically all common storage apples, as a rule, pass into consumption by the first of February. If this condition has been true of the present season, it is thought that the movement of cold storage apples will be very large during February and March. The supply certainly is bountiful and, as the result of low prices and a large demand, it is thought the consumption during the next few months will be sufficient to exhaust the supply.

The advisability of moving the stocks as rapidly as possible is urged upon growers and dealers, so that the unusually large holdings may diminish sufficiently to prevent disaster in April or May.

NEWS ITEM REGAINS CAR

Orton E. Goodwin's Machine Is Recovered by Rancher.

Orton E. Goodwin, publicity man, lost an automobile Sunday night.

The Oregonian Monday carried a news item on the theft.

Elmer Leisman, rancher, near Willamette, Or., saw the item, and when he went out to do his morning chores he found the machine only a few yards from his barn. The City Marshal of West Linn was telephoned to and took the automobile to Oregon City. Deputy Sheriffs Christoffersen and Hill were in Oregon City and volunteered to drive the machine to Portland. Mr. Goodwin was notified upon its arrival at the Courthouse and found it intact, none the worse for having been stolen.

FIRE DOES $12,000 DAMAGE

Early Morning Blaze Sweeps Morgan Paper Company.

Damage approximating $12,000 was caused by an early morning fire that swept the Morgan Paper Company store at 230 Second street and the smoke that penetrated the corridors and rooms of the Hotels Kenilworth and Valley above. Spontaneous combustion in the rolls of paper stored in the basement is thought responsible for the blaze.

The complete stock of the paper company was destroyed, a loss of about $10,000 mostly covered by insurance. Fifty guests in the hotels were roused from their beds and escaped through the smoke-choked corridors.

MOTHERS ASK INSURANCE

Maternity Policies Proposed by Illinois Risk Commissioner.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Maternity insurance, with limitations, for Illinois mothers was urged recently by Chicago women.

It has been proposed by Rufus M. Potts, State Fire Insurance Commissioner, in a special report to Governor Dunne.

ITALIANS ARE READY

"We Will Stay or March, as Ordered," Says General.

PREMIER MENTIONS GLORY

"Viva Neutrality" Brings Retort of "No, Viva Italy" From King's Prime Minister; Prelate Waves Battle Flag.

ROME, via Paris, March 9.—Premier Salandra went yesterday to Gaeta to inaugurate the works of the new military harbor there. General Morra, representing the army and navy, thanked the Premier for being present and concluded with these words:

"If the leaders tell us to stay we will stay, if they tell us to march, we will march, always and everywhere in the name of the King of Italy." These words created such enthusiasm that Premier Salandra rose and embraced the general, whereupon the enthusiasm was increased.

The Premier, in a reply to General Morra's remarks, said that, although it might be "with anguish," all Italians would do their duty with God's help, under the King's orders for the glory of the fatherland.

Many of those present expressed the opinion that the words "with anguish" meant that negotiations to have the Italian national aspirations satisfied and the country's rights recognized had failed and that thus there must be recourse to other means to attain the object. Premier Salandra received an ovation.

The enthusiasm reached its climax when Monsignor Niola, archbishop of Gaeta, while they were in the cathedral, waved before the premier the sacred flag of the Venetian fleet, which in 1571 triumphed over the Turks at Lepanto.

The return of the Premier to Rome was a triumphal procession, the crowds acclaiming him at each station. At Cessa one person cried "viva neutrality." The Premier leaned from the window of his car and retorted: "No, friends, cry with me 'Viva Italy.'" This brought an outburst of applause.

Perpetual Punishment.

(Chicago News.)

"I'd sooner be a criminal than be married to a woman like Peck's wife."

"What do you mean?"

"Why, a criminal gets one sentence at a time, but poor Peck gets a whole string of sentences every day."

BEAUTY WINS ROBBER

Man Takes Woman's Hand, Tells Her She's Pretty, Returns Gems.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The beauty of Mrs. Thomas Thornlow, of Arlington, charmed a burglar into repenting and returning several hundred dollars worth of jewels he had stolen from Mrs. Thornlow's dressing table. Mrs. Thornlow cried when she awoke and found the burglar in her room, and the thief turned a flashlight in her face. A moment later he sat down on the edge of the bed, took the woman's hand and said: "Don't cry, little girl. You are so doggoned good looking I can't help telling you about it. It would be a pity to rob such a beauty. Sleep well."

The burglar left the house, but his repentance was short, for he called at two other houses and stole $1600 worth of jewelry and valuables.

YOUNGER MAN IS JILTED

Millionaire Employer Weds Head of Department in His Store.

UTICA, N. Y., Feb. 25.—John A. Roberts, millionaire merchant, and Miss Gertrude A. Wood, head of a department in his store, were married here, the bridegroom being 74 years old and his bride 40.

Roberts had been attentive to his employe for a long time. Recently Miss Wood obtained a license to marry William G. White, of Buffalo, and arrangements were made for the ceremony. Two days later Roberts announced his engagement to Miss Wood.

The jilted man is about the same age as the handsome Mrs. Roberts.

"MOCK" MARRIAGE REAL

Unwilling Bridegroom Sues Man Who Arranged Ceremony.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., Feb. 25.—John B. Andrews, aged 25, has started legal proceedings to recover damages from Charles Springer, alleging Springer had him married without his consent.

Andrews and Miss Grace Beacham, 19, participated in what they thought was a mock marriage ceremony at a church social at Tioga recently. A regular license was secured from the Town Clerk and a Justice of the Peace performed the ceremony, much to the delight of the audience.

Some persons raised the question whether the marriage was legal or not. Alarmed, Andrews, who is engaged to another girl, hurried to the court. The court ruled the marriage was legal and refused an annulment. Springer was in charge of the festivities.

TURKISH DEFEAT GROWS

Nine Hundred Killed Near Ahwaz and on Western Flank.

LONDON, March 9.—In a statement regarding the recent fighting between British troops and Turkish forces at the head of the Persian Gulf, the official press bureau said:

"The enemy's losses near Ahwaz (in Khuzistan) on March 3 were heavier than previously reported. Six hundred were killed and many were wounded.

"In the action on the western flank the enemy lost 200 men killed."