

MAJOR MILLER MEETS DEATH LEADING MEN

Valor of Commander of Third Battalion Inspires Men.

FIRE OF ENEMY TERRIFIC

361st and 364th Regiments on Front Line Make Attack on Line Along Trossol Farm Ridge.

BY GOLDEN V. DYMENT.

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TWENTY-FIFTH DIVISION.

About 1 o'clock on the afternoon of the 28th of September, the 31st again drove into a line where the Hun had decided to resist bitterly. This line ran through the north side of the Clergen woods along the ridge running west and extending brokenly along the north side of the Baulny woods, and the Trossol farm ridge. The 361st and the 364th were on the front line and made the attack. These two regiments on that afternoon alone, between 4 o'clock and night, had about 65 men killed or fatally hurt.

The third battalion of the 361st had come up the ravine between Clergen and the Baulny woods. It was led by a redoubtable major named Oscar P. Miller. His wife, Anna Miller, lived at 1727 West Fifty-first street, Los Angeles. He was much liked by the men. He had not felt well that afternoon, probably because of the exposure and work of the previous three or four days, but did not go back. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon Private Anton L. Olson of company L, 361st, had been hit in the head by a fragment and instantly killed, while the major was near. Olson came from Mount Angel, Or., and left a sister, Miss Olga Olson, in Penn. Idaho. He was a scout and sniper attached to the battalion intelligence section on special duty.

Major Miller Always in Front.

After Olson was killed the third battalion hurried rapidly on in spite of machine gun, sniper and shell fire, passed through the Exmorieux farm woods, and out into the opening between Clergen and Baulny woods, where it began to attack the crest since known as Miller hill.

The major went with his doughboys to the front line. Private Carl Mumm, of Oregon City, Or., was one of several men with him. The German fire was terrific. It just seemed as if men couldn't stand it. The enemy was not all out at the sides, and the battalion was catching it from the ridges in front and from both front flanks. The major carried no rifle; he walked calmly along in the front wave calling out to his men to "go to 'em." "Come on and get ahead," and so on. At intervals he would set up a cheer of his own and cry "powder river," the celebrated battle cry of the 261st—"Powder river! Hook 'em, cow!"

First Wounds Did Not Stop Him.

For it was this kind of an afternoon; that men were crouching in shellholes and lying behind any old shelter, almost dismayed at what they were facing. They pushed forward, true—31st men always pushed forward. It seemed that the major was afraid they might break under the dreadful resistance and upright he stood without flinching, an heroic spectacle on the shell-and-bullet-swept slope, shouting a little, shouting encouragement to those who could hear him and motioning to those who could not, knowing no doubt that his last hour had come.

So Miller was hit. Private Mumm, power told this story about it:

"The major was first hit in the arm. He whirled around twice in a circle, then pulled up his arm and looked at it, but said nothing about it and kept right on. I was 20 feet from him. "It was perhaps five minutes before he was struck again. The men were advancing, but only slowly. Most of them were down, shooting. The Germans were retreating along the top of the hill. The major ordered me to call to the boys throughout the five minutes. I think he was crying to them to go on over the top, and yelling "Powder river! Hook 'em, cow." The Germans would rise from their trenches, run 50 yards and then drop to rest.

"Lucky Jim" Fortune Comes Up.

"The second time he was hit was in the right leg. He fell and lay for a few minutes. I thought he was dead and went back to tell Captain Fortune that the major was killed, but as I returned he got up again and began to encourage the boys.

Perhaps it was only a minute or two before he was shot again, and this time he didn't get up. He was then almost at the top of the ridge.

Meanwhile "Lucky Jim" Fortune had come hurrying up. Fortune is still alive—strangely enough. Fritz could hit his pack and his clothes, and could come within inches of him at any time, but never could kill him. One of the 31st mysteries is why Fortune is living. Three times in the Argonne he succeeded to the battalion command when his superior had been shot down; he was only Lieutenant Fortune then. And on Miller hill and on 255 he went through incredible dangers—but never a scratch. Good Fortune should be the name of this dashing Los Angeles, an

Women Cried With Pain.

Thousands of women work today while suffering from kidney or bladder ailments that can be relieved. Mrs. L. W. W. 2733 34 St., Ocean Park, Cal., writes: "I had to sit down during my housework. My back ached so, also my hip pained me so I used to cry out the pain was so great. Now I am thankful to say that Foley Kidney Pills rid me of all my pain." Backache, sore muscles, stiff or swollen joints, rheumatic pains are indications of kidney trouble. Foley Kidney Pills are safe and reliable. They bring quick results. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

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Englishman and a recruit for the army from the California oil fields.

Major Still Staggering Forward.

When Fortune got to the major the latter had just been shot in the leg, but was still staggering forward. Fortune borrowed his map to report the position by phone, then hurried on up again. Now Fortune picks up the story himself.

"His sleeve was rolled up. Blood was running down his hand and his hat was gone, but he was moving unsteadily on, yelling and cheering, regardless of bullets. I told him that our left flank was exposed by about 300 yards and that we had better stop pretty soon. He replied, 'We have 'em on the run. We can take the next ridge. You are next in command if I'm killed.' I was next in command because Captain Burz was then with the 1st battalion and the other three captains were wounded.

"I went back to the phone to request artillery fire on the ridge next in front, then returned for the major. I found he was down. I said, 'Come on, major; we'll go back to the other side of the hill (for by then the commander had crossed the first ridge and was on his way to the second). He said, 'Never mind. I'm all shot to pieces and can't go any farther.' I got him onto my shoulders and carried him about 100 yards to the edge of some brush, where I turned him over to some men who had taken a blanket from a dead German, and told them to carry him back. I went to organize the position and saw him no more."

Thoughts Always for Victory.

He was so eager to get to that second ridge, was the major. One dislike to leave off writing about him. Sergeant David O. Anderson of 856 Twenty-third street, San Diego, came up to him as he lay doubled up from the third of the wounds. "The lieutenant says to keep the men out of the woods on the right, sir," said Anderson. "A barrage is about to be laid. This was a thicket in front of the second ridge. The major replied, 'The barrage has been laid down already. We're going on through.' Even then he was dying. Lieutenant David A. Bissett of company K, a Tacoma, came up a few minutes after the major had fallen. "Never mind me," he said. "I am done. Leave me and go on to that ridge." Bissett was soon hit by shrapnel and sent to the rear, but later returned to command of company K.

As the men carried him back, Frank Verco, a private, one of the bearers, was wounded. "There is another hit," said the major. "Boys, just drag me to the nearest shell hole and let me stay there." But a substitute bearer was called and the men took him back to the canyon at Very.

There he died at 5 o'clock the next morning.

The deaths of other brave men in the Miller hill and Baulny woods charges will be described in succeeding installments by Lieutenant Dymont.

WIRES TO BE GIVEN BACK

(Continued From First Page.)

and unusual interest. The statement follows:

"The postmaster-general will recommend that the telegraph and telephone lines be restored to their respective owners as soon as legislation can be secured from congress safeguarding the interests of the owners in every way that it is possible to safeguard them.

Land Companies Weak. This is not true as to the cable lines, which are in a condition to be returned at once."

Postoffice department officials expressed the belief that few of the companies could weather the financial storm if the properties were turned back without remedial legislation. Some officials said that while the properties must be returned in the same physical condition in which they were taken over, to do this now, without added revenue to meet wage demands and increased cost of operation, would wreck the entire industry.

Officials responsible for the management of the properties under government control declined to suggest exactly what sort of legislation would be necessary. Republicans in congress have made no secret of their intention at the forthcoming extra session to press for the immediate return of the service to private management.

Wires Held Half Year.

By proclamation of the president, the entire wire service, with the exception of cable lines, was taken over by the government on July 31 and placed under the direction of the postoffice department. The proclamation as to cable control was signed by the president on November 2, but an announcement was made until after the signing of the armistice on November 11.

Taking over the cable system was followed by a controversy between the postmaster-general and Clarence H. Mackay by Mr. Burleson.

Further controversy involved the Postal Telegraph company, when officials of that company objected to the postmaster-general's plan to amalgamate the Postal company with the Western Union.

As a result, Mr. Burleson dismissed from government service Edward Reynolds, vice-president and general manager of the Postal company, and A. B. Richards, general superintendent of the Postal company's Pacific coast division. Orders issued by the postmaster-general providing for a nation-wide increase in telephone and telegraph rates are now pending in the supreme court. It is believed that the proposed prompt return of the cable systems will render a decision by the court unnecessary.

Arguments in cases arising from the postmaster-general's order increasing rates are to be heard by the court next Monday. The cases resulted in appeals from South Dakota and Massachusetts court decrees, although similar actions have been brought in about 21 states.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 28.—Postmaster-General Burleson's action this afternoon in recommending to the president that the cables be turned back to their owners before May 10 is regarded here as a surrender.

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DAWGRIFFITH'S

"The Girl Who Stayed at Home"

An ARTCRAFT Picture



LAST TIMES

LAST CHANCES

TODAY AND WEDNESDAY



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COMING THURSDAY

"TODD OF THE TIMES"

A Comedy Drama Featuring FRANK KEENAN

telegraph and telephone lines from Burleson's hands without waiting for additional legislation. The postmaster-general's statement that the postoffice department recently declared was only made to justify their taking over in the first place and that the same power which is separating the cable lines from the rest of the telegraph and telephone lines is without parallel in the history of this country."

POSTAL HEAD'S WORDS SHARP

Clarence H. Mackay Says His Company Needs No Further Aid.

NEW YORK, April 28.—(Special)—Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Commercial Cable-Postal Telegraph system, made the following comment tonight on Mr. Burleson's recommendation to the president that the cable lines be returned to their owners:

"The supreme court of the United States has not yet decided the appeal taken by the Commercial Cable company against Postmaster-General Burleson, in which that company questioned the legality of taking over these cables five days after the armistice was signed. As a matter of fact, Mr. Burleson cannot turn anything back in the way of cables.

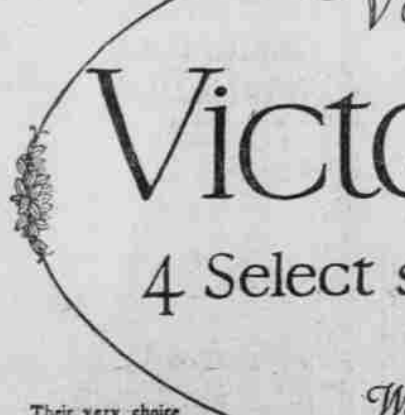
"He has never really had possession of the cables, and has not operated them nor even controlled them. The British government forbade his controlling them as far as the British ends were concerned, and that meant about four-fifths of the distance covered by the cables.

"Why doesn't Mr. Burleson turn back the Postal Telegraph lines? That is what the public wants, and there is no earthly reason why he should hold on to these lines. He needs no additional legislation as far as we are concerned. We are willing to take what our lines earned during the period of government control.

"If he wants to hold on to the Western Union lines and the telephone lines

until he secures legislation to help our lines. We want our lines back to give good service to the public and to preserve our organization and do a few other interesting things. Such a fiasco as has resulted from Mr. Burleson's control of the cables, telegraphs

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