

FLIGHT OF RUSSIANS IS NOT UNDERSTOOD

Germans Occupying Brest Litovsk Wonder Why Strong Position Was Abandoned.

DEFENSE COST ENORMOUS

Study of Preparations for Resistance Shows That 23 Trainloads of Barbed Wire Alone Were Used Around Forts.

BY JAMES O'DONNELL BENNETT. War Correspondent of the Chicago Tribune. Published by Arrangement.

PINSK, Russia, March 22.—Six months have passed since the Russian city of Brest Litovsk was reduced to ruins by Russian troops. The town is still lying in its dead, and such of the native inhabitants as remain in the region occasionally communicate to the German authorities interesting facts relative to the pre-occupation days.

Walls Are Still Standing. The walls of almost every one of the hundreds of houses, stores and factories which were burned in this city of nearly 50,000 inhabitants still stand. Window panes, doors, floors, and furniture have vanished in smoke and flame, but the walls seem as clean and solid as if the building had just been finished.

In a word, it was in every instance a fire set from the inside, usually by means of cans of gasoline. Brest Litovsk is a dead city. Except for the activities of the German garrison quartered in the citadel a mile and a quarter from the town proper, and the coming and going of troops at the railway station, there is not a sign of life. Not only the houses, but the street after street, of silent ruins confront the beholder. Even the sparrows have deserted the place. Only the crows remain.

Germans at Home in Citadel. One moonlight night I rode through the ruins. A man would say to himself, "I can see the citadel." But what was there to see? Twenty words tell it all—pale light descending from watery clouds, silence, gaunt walls, smothered fires, and a dismal "War da," and the muttered return of the password.

The idea. The Russians seem to have been to make the Brest Litovsk region impossible for occupation by the Germans. Nothing like that happened. Sixty thousand men, women and children were driven from their homes, a prosperous city was ruined, vital sections of the front were blown up. And to what end? The weather was warm when the Germans closed in on Brest. The fire raged and the Germans sat down in the fields and woods around the city until it had cooled. Then they marched in, cleared away the bodies of humans and horses, removed such walls as threatened safe passage, and settled themselves in the citadel, which had not been destroyed and which made comfortable quarters when once it had been cleaned and whitewashed.

Abandonment Not Understood. Why Brest Litovsk should have fallen without a prolonged siege is still a matter of argument among German officers. Since they occupied the town and fortress they had had many opportunities to study the Russian defenses.

The estimates of German military experts are the authority for the statement that the Russians had used 15,000,000 running meters of barbed wire in the entanglements which girdle the inner forts of Brest in a circumference of 84 kilometers (about 50 miles), and that it required 23 freight trains of 50 cars each to bring in that amount of wire.

In their explorations of the country the Germans found trains of burned flat cars, and in the wreckage of trucks and wheels lay cracked and melted field guns. Other guns dragged out of the fortresses in various directions, and a decision was made as a result of the fear that vast bodies of Russian troops would be cut off, removed to points where, no doubt, they still are useful.

All this loss and destruction at Brest gives support to the statement of a colonel minister of state that the Grand Duke Nicholas' order that towns and forts lying in the rear of the German advance should be destroyed has cost the Russian empire not less than 8,000,000,000 roubles (\$4,000,000,000). And, again, to what end?

The Germans are in the territory and they are comfortable. The Russian policy that ruined Napoleon has not ruined the Germans. The reason is simple, and that reason is railroads. The Germans no sooner establish themselves in a devastated area than food, timber and ammunition come promptly to them from Germany.

Russian Secrets Learned. I have spoken of secrets which such occupied the Russians to evacuate the city give up to the invaders. What I mean is this:

The local merchants and capitalists of the occupied Russian area—especially if they are Jews or Poles—become communicative when good relations have been established between them and the German invaders. For example, according to the statement of the Russian officers who were French officers when in Brest in October, 1914, and advised the Russians to strengthen the defenses of the fortress. This was done.

Less than a year later Japanese officers were in Brest-Litovsk, and they advised the Russians to evacuate the fortress and fall back on Pinsk. And this was done. The present governor of Brest, speaking in the laboring English which he employs as a courtesy to correspondents from America, said: "And—I think—clear air—that—that—last—advice—was—very—stupid."

The usual eruption of craft, which few in Russia are slow to pick up or consider a scandal, attended the evacuation of Brest. Inhabitants making an early departure before the burning of the town was definitely decided upon were permitted to take their furniture. Later fugitives were not, except in a few instances where the payment of a bribe won the favor of petty officials. When the Russians had drawn the lines tight a permit to leave the threatened town cost a hundred roubles (\$20).

If a married man ever becomes truly great his wife nearly always assumes the responsibility for it.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

German. BERLIN, April 1.—By wireless to Bayville, N. Y.—Today's official statement from general headquarters is as follows:

Western front—Near St. Eloi an attack with hand grenades by the British was repulsed. There was fighting with mines between La Basse Canal and Neuville.

Northeast of Roye the fire of the French artillery was spirited. German artillery effectively shelled positions of the enemy on the Alsne front.

There were violent artillery duels in the Argonne and in the sector of the Meuse.

German battle air craft shot down four French aeroplanes. Of these one fell within our lines near Laon and another near Meuvilly in the West. Two fell behind the enemy's lines, one near Ville-aux-Bois and the other south of Hancourt. The French aeroplane at Romny, west of Rheims, was attacked with many bombs.

Eastern front—There were no developments of importance. The Russian offensive apparently is exhausted for the moment.

From February 23 to March 23 the Russians attacked in large sectors of the Field Marshal von Hindenburg's front with 30 divisions, or more than 500,000 men, and with such an expenditure of munition as until now had been unheard of on the eastern front.

Austrian. BERLIN, April 1.—By wireless to Bayville, N. Y.—The official Austrian statement of today follows:

Russian front—Near Olka, Austro-Hungarian detachments captured an advanced position of the enemy, filled the trenches, destroyed the defense works and returned to their main positions. The latter point the Germans advanced southeast of Sienkowiec were frustrated by our artillery and by counter attacks.

Italian front—The fighting was resumed at several places. There were more or less spirited artillery duels near the Tolmino bridges in the Pella sector and on the Dolomites front. Italian attacks on the sector between Great Pal and Small Pal and near Schludbach were repulsed.

British. LONDON, April 1.—The following official statement on the campaign on the western front was issued tonight:

There was considerable activity yesterday on both sides. Hostile artillery was active today along the front between the Hohenzollern redoubt and Aachen. We retaliated by shelling the enemy's positions.

Enemy artillery was active about Ypres. The enemy fired mines yesterday and today opposite British positions near the quarries and in the Hohenzollern redoubts. Little damage was done to our trenches.

Least night there was heavy shelling on both sides about St. Eloi and the enemy made three bombing attacks against our new positions. The attacks were repulsed.

French. PARIS, April 1.—The text of today's official statement by the War Office is:

North of the Alsne there has been considerable activity of artillery in the vicinity of Moulin-Sous-Touvent and Fontenoy.

In the Argonne we have directed a destructive fire on the highways and railroad lines north of Haute Chevauchee.

West of the Meuse there has been an intermittent bombardment in the region of Malancourt, but without any infantry engagements.

East of the Meuse the bombardment became exceedingly violent yesterday, and last night between the woods south of Haudremont and the region of Vaux. Against the latter point the Germans delivered two sudden attacks in which large numbers of men took part.

During the second attack the enemy, after a spirited fight, was able to secure a footing in the western part of the village of Vaux, occupied by our forces.

In the Woivre there has been some active artillery firing against the vil-

lages at the base of the heights of the Meuse.

The text of tonight's supplementary statement is:

The Belgian our artillery bombarded the enemy cantonments at Langemarck, northeast of Ypres.

In the Argonne our batteries were active against the German organizations north of Laharzee and La Fille Mort and against the enemy camps in the northern part of the heavy woods.

West of the Meuse the bombardment has been intense against our positions between Avocourt and Malancourt. To the east of the Meuse a quite violent bombardment was followed in the course of the afternoon by a German attack on the ravine between Fort Douaumont and the village of Vaux. The attack was completely stopped by our curtain of fire.

Italian. ROME, March 31, via London April 1.—The following official statement was issued today by the war department:

In the Daone Valley, during an encounter between small detachments on the slopes of Mount Tefelino on Wednesday, the enemy was put to flight and abandoned arms and munitions.

On the Isonzo front, intense artillery actions were hampered by the driving rain.

Monday we took by assault about 150 meters of enemy fortifications. After repulsing violent counter attacks our soldiers resolved at any cost to take the whole fortification. The assault succeeded. They captured many prisoners and important booty.

Turkish. CONSTANTINOPLE, via Copenhagen and London, April 1.—The following official statement has been issued by the Turkish Office:

Irak front—There has been no change in the Tigris region. In the Euphrates front, one of our detachments attacked an enemy detachment of Maxine and drove in southward with losses. At the same time, a volunteer company of the camp of the detachment and took much booty.

Assassins front—Our troops have advanced in the Tchoruk region and repulsed attacks of hostile reconnoitering detachments. On the rest of the front there have been no important operations.

Dardanelles—An enemy cruiser opened an ineffective fire and then retired. Three aeroplanes, coming from Imbros, were driven off by the effective fire of our batteries at Yenikui.

Saturday's War Moves. THE Germans under the Crown Prince made further progress toward Verdun yesterday, by getting a foothold in the village of Vaux, to the northeast of the trenches.

The aviators of both sides on the Franco-Belgian front have been busy. Four French machines fell victims to German battle aircraft in various engagements.

Berlin summarizes the recent Russian offensive now apparently at a standstill as barren of results for Emperor Nicholas' forces, while the Russian casualties are estimated by the German headquarters at being at least 140,000. More than 500,000 men were engaged on the Russian side, according to the German estimate of ammunition by the attacking forces is declared to have been an unprecedented scale for the eastern front.

The air raids of Friday night over the English east coasts were apparently the most serious scale yet attempted by the German Zeppelins in fleet. They resulted, according to the official British reports, in the killing of 23 persons and the destruction of a \$150,000 Federal building in Aberdeen. These were to have been opened 10 days ago but due to protest by Representative Albert Johnson to the use of Indiana stone instead of Washington stone in the building the opening of the bids was delayed. The specifications for the building provide for its completion within 15 months after the contract is let.

Bids to Be Opened Tomorrow. ABERDEEN, Wash., April 1.—(Special)—Bids will be opened Monday in Washington, D. C. for the construction of a \$150,000 Federal building in Aberdeen. These were to have been opened 10 days ago but due to protest by Representative Albert Johnson to the use of Indiana stone instead of Washington stone in the building the opening of the bids was delayed. The specifications for the building provide for its completion within 15 months after the contract is let.

Corns Come Off Like Banana Peel. Wonderful. Simple "Gets-It" Never Fails to Remove Any Corn Easily. "Wouldn't it jar you? Here I've been going for years with corns, and I've never had a corn removed, until I got rid of them with knives that eat

off the toes, tapes that stick to the stocking, bandages and plasters that make a package of the toes, trying good-bye razors and knives. Then I tried "Gets-It" just once and you ought to have seen that corn come off—just like a banana peel." It's simple, wonderful. It's the new way, painless, applied in two seconds, never hurts. Quit the old ways for once anyway and try "Gets-It" tonight. For corns, calluses, warts and bunions "Gets-It" is sold everywhere. The real, care-free, safe, efficient, "Gets-It" is sold direct by E. Lawrence & Co., Chicago, Ill. Sold in Portland at all stores of The Owl Drug Co.

STOMACH UPSET? Get at the Real Cause—Take Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets. That's what thousands of stomach sufferers are doing now. Instead of taking tonics, or trying to patch up a poor digestion, they are attacking the cause, the bile, and restoring a healthy liver and disordered bowels. Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets arouse the liver in a soothing, healing way. When the liver and bowels are performing their natural functions, away goes indigestion and stomach troubles. You will know them by their olive color. They do the work without gripping, cramping or pain. Take one or two at bedtime for quick relief, so you can eat what you like. At 10c and 25c. The Olive Tablet Company, Columbus, O.—Adv.

ROOK FLIER GETS 2

Burning German Hurlled Back Into Lines.

PLANE CAUGHT ON HOOK

French Aviator, 14,000 Feet in Air, Grappled Teuton, Who Dangled Helplessly Till Captor's Engine Stopped, Wing Broke.

PARIS, April 1.—Lieutenant Rene Doumer, a son of Paul Doumer, ex-President of the Chamber of Deputies, has put two German aeroplanes out of action, although it was only three months ago that he took up aviation.

On March 18 he engaged three German machines, shooting down one and forcing another to land. A few days later he attacked a Plokker and sent it hurtling in flames into the German lines.

Lieutenant Le Bourhis, the first French military aviator to use a parachute, is dead from wounds received in the aerial encounter in the vicinity of Verdun. The Lieutenant, who was a private at the outbreak of the war, won a commission and the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

German Caught With Hook. His best known exploit was the capture of a large German aeroplane with a grappling hook in August of last year. He thus described this incident in a letter to a friend:

I had been flying for hours, dragging a grapple at the end of a long cable behind my machine. Suddenly a large black aeroplane with white crosses appeared. I sent my machine whirling over him. A hook of him and he swung at the end of my line like a toy.

Escape From Death Unexplained. "I caught glimpses of deep trenches and a wide river beneath me. I struggled furiously with the German machine still balanced at the end of the rope. I began to fall more rapidly. A wing broke. Everything turned black. I was falling like a stone.

When the Lieutenant regained consciousness he was safely on land, not badly injured. He was unable to explain the manner of his escape from death, although he attributed it to the probability that the cable attached to the German aeroplane tightened as he was falling and eased the force of the descent.

GASTON HAS SCHOOL RALLY. O. A. C. Workers Give Interesting Lectures and Demonstrations. GASTON, Or., April 1.—(Special)—With an ideal Spring day and an immense crowd, a fine programme was given at the school rally here Friday night.

Professor Allen, of Oregon Agricultural College, gave a lecture and demonstration on the care of cattle. Miss Helen Conally, also of Oregon Agricultural College, explained and illustrated the best canning methods.

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Store Opens Daily at 8:30 A. M. Saturdays at 9 A. M. Pacific Phone: Marshall 5050. Store Closes Daily at 5:30 P. M. Saturdays at 6 P. M. Home Phone: A 2112. Roberts Bros. THIRD & MORRISON. The Most in Value, the Best in Quality.

With Conspicuous Eagerness Multitudes of Women Will Hail This Big Sale of Pongee Silks

Never Were Our Stocks So Large or Better Selected Than Now—Never Were the Prices So Low. In preparing for this mammoth Pongee Silk Sale it took considerable planning and figuring to get the silks we wanted at the prices we wanted. Silks are advancing in price all the while, and the demand is great. Had we, like many stores, waited until the last moment to purchase these goods, we would have been in a sorry plight indeed. But we studied conditions, went to market early—placed large import orders months ago, secured price concessions, and are able to offer Pongee Silks of quality at unmatchable low prices.

See Our Morrison-St. Window Display. Extra Salespeople! Sale Starts Promptly at 9 A. M. None Sold to Merchants—No Phone Orders. 65c and 75c Quality Natural Color Pongee 29c at Yard. 75c and 1.00 Qualities Natural Color Pongee 49c at Yard. Real hand-loom Pongee Silks, full 25 inches wide—Silks that are washable, durable and fashionable. 34-inch real Shan Tung Pongee Silks of extra fine quality and finish—a favorite Summer Silk.

Beautiful Spring Coatings at \$2 to \$2.50 Yd. Fine high-grade, pure wool Coatings in proper Spring weights. They come full 54 inches wide and shown in the fashionable overplaid and stripes in cream and black; also in all wanted and staple new colorings—unmatchable values at a yard. An Early Inspection Is Invited.

New Patterns and Low Prices at This Sale of Spring Embroideries. Such Offerings as Listed Here Go Actually Beyond the Possibility of Competition—Others May Make Sales, Reduce Prices, but Never at Any Time Have They Been Able to Offer Such Values as We Offer. 48c and 59c Embroideries at 35c Yard. 85c and 1.25 Embroideries at 55c Yard. 18-inch Embroideries in patterns for flouncings and Corset Covers. They come in Swiss, Nainsook and Cambric, open and blend effects. 27-inch Flouncings in baby patterns in hemstitched, ruffle and scalloped effects; also conventional and floral patterns.

New Silk & Kid Gloves. We have provided for your consideration an unsurpassed stock of Gloves in well-known and reliable makes. Economical women will not purchase before inspecting these offerings: La France Kid Gloves are shown in two-clasp style in all sizes and colors. They are perfect fitting Gloves of standard quality. \$1.25. Eudora French Kid Gloves are shown in over-seam and self-colored stitching. All the best colors, now. \$1.50. Mocha Gloves are shown in the one-clasp style and in all sizes. A strictly high-grade glove in gray only. Priced \$1.50 at only. Mocha Gloves, an excellent quality Mocha Glove, shown in one-clasp style with embroidered back and in all the new shades of gray. Priced now \$1.75 at only. Short Silk Gloves, priced 50c at only. Shown in two-clasp style with double-tipped fingers and in all the best shades.

Values That Cannot Be Duplicated Are Offered at This Important Sale of Women's Spring Suits. The Extremely Fashionable Norfolk—Flare and Box Effects in the Best Materials—Valued \$22.50 to \$30, This Sale \$12.50. The elegance and dignity of our stock of Women's Spring Suits, chosen in the most painstaking manner, is as beautiful a range of models as ever shown in this city. Your particular attention is directed to this important under-priced sale, for it offers values that cannot be duplicated. You have choice from attractive models in Norfolk, flare and box effects in fine, all-wool serges, poplins, gabardine and Shepherd checked fabrics; new blues, new tans, new greens, navy, black and white checks, etc. Suits of perfect fit and examples of the finest workmanship, many of which are manufacturers' models of "last-minute" styles. Values run up to \$30 and at this sale you have choice at \$22.50. Women's and Misses' Middy Blouses at \$1.25 and \$1.50. All sizes from 8 years to 44 bust. They are made of fine Lonsdale Jean and Jap Crepe in plain white, with pink or blue trimming at collar and cuff, or in the popular blazer stripes—two grades at \$1.25 and \$1.50. More Tempting Values in Notions and Drug Sundries. 35c Hospital Cotton at 25c. 25c Powder Puffs at 15c. 15c Powder Puffs at 10c. 7c Powder Puffs at 5c. 10c Chamois priced at 5c. 15c Chamois priced at 10c. 20c Chamois priced at 15c. 35c Chamois priced at 25c. 90c Auto Chamois at 75c. 75c Solid Hair Brush at 50c. \$1.50 Hot Water Bottle at .98c.

Hosiery. Complete New and Extensive Lines in Novelty and Staples. All Thoroughly Reliable in Quality and Priced as Low as It Is Possible to Sell Good Hosiery. These fine heavy fiber silk boot Stockings are of unusual merit—they are durable, perfect fitting and especially desirable for Spring wear. They come in all sizes in black, white and wanted colors at, pair. One of the best-known makes of women's fine pure-silk Stockings, shown in all the new and staple colors in a great variety of striped styles. All sizes, especially priced for this sale at, pair. Fine hosiery and cotton Vests in styles with fancy crochet yoke—perfect fitting, seasonable-weight garments in all sizes. Two prices—each 25c and 50c.

A Sale of Dainty Undermuslins. Manufacturers' Samples—Odd Pieces and Broken Lines—Gowns, Skirts, Combination Suits, Envelope Chemise—all of Fine Materials and the Best of Trimmings. Values to \$1.50 at 59c each.

PRISON FARE SHORT

French Captive Says Men Are Starved Into Working.

MEDICAL MEN ARE RAPPED

Germans Declared to Have Forced Signature to Paper Saying Labor Is Voluntary—Treatment in Surgery Condemned.

PARIS, March 31.—Henry Crosme, ex-Secretary of the French Embassy at Vienna and an artillery sergeant, who recently escaped from the prisoners' camp at Muenster, Westphalia, Germany, described his experiences to the Associated Press as follows:

"About 20 of us were taken prisoners after our battery was destroyed, and all of us were wounded. The first order we got was to lie down in a bunch near the front. We were hardly a yard from us. Getting revolvers they had taken from us, they fired into the heap, killing all but six of our party of whom

Assets, \$9,600,000.00. August 23, 1915. Mr. H. B. Hetrick, Gen'l Agent, Lincoln, Nebraska: Dear Friend—I have today received a draft from the Bankers Life Insurance Co. of Lincoln, Nebraska, as a cash settlement for my Ten-Year Insurance Policy No. 20528 and must say that it is absolutely satisfactory in every way. I also received from the company another ten-year pay policy, for which you took my application when you were here in Lincoln, Nebraska, and I think that in a recent investment I have made I will receive sufficient interest on the former policy to take care of premium of the latter. I find that my protection during the last ten years has cost me very little or nothing, and had anything happened to me I would have had the benefit of the full amount of the policy. I trust that your company will prosper for many years, and that we will both be permitted to make another settlement in ten years hence. Yours respectfully, J. A. HANSON. Ask the Man Who Owns One of Our Policies. Have You an Agency? Have You a Policy?

I was one. When I got up I spoke a few words of German, which saved me. We were conveyed in cattle trucks to Muenster.

Two Days Without Food. "After two days without food we were placed in a camp hallowed out of the ground with 15,000 other French, English and Russian prisoners.

"My first attempt to escape failed. I was brought back and tied to a post with a rope twisted around me from my neck to my feet.

"On my second attempt to escape I got away with the help of a friend, although we were pursued by dogs. Near the frontier we saw what we thought were sentries, but these turned out to be dummies, cunningly cut out of the hedges at short intervals.

"In the camp the rank and file were starved into working in mines and factories after signing a paper that they were 'volunteers,' which was then shown to neutral inspectors.

Prison Fare Meager. "We arose from straw mattresses for coffee at seven. The coffee was always made from roasted barley. At ten we had the principal meal—a thick barley soup, which we called 'concrete.' God once a week and pig's jaws once in a fortnight.

"There was no meat whatever for the last six months. The discipline was not brutal or severe. Idle prisoners did much as they liked. The chief cruelty now is in keeping severely wounded or helpless or armless prisoners in camp and refusing to exchange them. Perhaps this is owing to the fear of exposing bad surgical treatment on the part of the German doctors.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.



Heed! Use Sure "Gets-It" For Those Corns and Save Your Life and Your Toes! off the toes, tapes that stick to the stocking, bandages and plasters that make a package of the toes, trying good-bye razors and knives. Then I tried "Gets-It" just once and you ought to have seen that corn come off—just like a banana peel." It's simple, wonderful. It's the new way, painless, applied in two seconds, never hurts. Quit the old ways for once anyway and try "Gets-It" tonight. For corns, calluses, warts and bunions "Gets-It" is sold everywhere. The real, care-free, safe, efficient, "Gets-It" is sold direct by E. Lawrence & Co., Chicago, Ill. Sold in Portland at all stores of The Owl Drug Co.

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