

RHINE IS OF GREAT STRATEGIC VALUE TO GERMANY'S DEFENSE

Military Critic Discusses Part River Might Play Were Germany Put on Defensive. FOLLOWS WEST FRONTIER

It Stretches Across Germany From Switzerland to Holland, a Distance of 450 Miles.

By Hillaire Belloc. The political frontiers which the development of history has imposed upon various parts of Europe...

The German empire may also complain that, to the west, save upon the right of the Vosges...

These two frontiers are, moreover, the frontiers of the Rhine, which are not only the frontiers of the Rhine...

How Rhine Guards Germany. Throughout history the passage of the Rhine has been the first chief occupation of those who would pass from the west into German territory...

It shall be the course of this article suggest reasons which may make the holding of that line less certain than is sometimes imagined...

Here it is necessary to emphasize that prime truth that war is the least certain of all our uncertain human activities and that prophecy in war is futile...

So much being said, let us look in some detail at this line. Frontier Length of 450 Miles. The first element in it is its length. From where it enters Germany...

Along the Upper River. When we look at the disposition of wealth, population and varied activities along the Rhine...

Along the Lower River. Strasbourg upon the one side, Eribourg upon the other...

What's Wrong With the Light? is a frequent inquiry from some members of the family. Very often this indicates a need for glasses or that the ones then being worn are not correct...

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WHERE FLOWS THE RHINE



Map No. 1. English Miles.

ities covers more than 450 miles. Its direct line as the crow flies, from Basle to the little frontier village of Buren upon the Dutch border...

At the beginning of these 450 miles the Rhine is rather less than 400 yards wide. Here it leaves Germany to enter Holland it is nearer half a mile, and throughout the whole of its course it is a singularly rapid stream.

It will be seen from all this that the river is a permanent unbroken military obstacle of the highest value.

The fact that it has been for centuries the main communication of scores of towns and of a dense population has increased this character in the stream. It has created depots for every considerable town...

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GERMANS ARE UNITED IN THEIR ADMIRATION OF EMPEROR WILLIAM

Flaming Patriotism Holds the Kaiser's Subjects Together in Close Bond.

HUMAN SIDE OF KAISER. Many Stories Told of Compassion and Sympathy for His Soldiers Expressed by the War Lord.

By Herbert Corey. (Copyright, 1915, by Herbert Corey.) Berlin, March 20.—"Let me tell you a story of the Kaiser," said a German of high standing the other day.

By way of preface I should explain that two questions have been continually on my lips during my present stay in Germany. They are: "What part is the emperor playing in the direction of military operations?" and "What is the German feeling toward him?"

Just after the battle of Soissons, said my friend, "the emperor visited one of the field hospitals. He came to a door that was closed. He was all alone. 'Do not go in, your majesty,' the attendants begged, 'a dying man is there. He is so frightfully wounded that you would be made unhappy.'"

"I shall go in," was the reply. "Inside the room was a young lieutenant. He was still conscious and he was dying. He was all alone. The services of those engaged at the hospital were needed for those there was still a chance to save. The Kaiser knelt by his bedside."

"From time to time they opened the door. Just far enough to peer in. Always they found the emperor of Germany on his knees by the side of the dying man, praying aloud to God. It was not until the tortured soul had taken its flight that the Kaiser left the room. There were tears upon his face."

"It may be that this is not the American conception of the supreme war lord, but I believe it to be a true story of an affecting incident. Those who are in a position to speak with knowledge of the Kaiser, and yet with some measure of impartiality at least, paint a pleasant picture of a warm-hearted, impetuous, manly man."

A War of Defense, Give Others. "It has been charged against the Kaiser in America that he and the military coteries which surround him brought on this war," said the speaker.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. He who makes two blades of wheat grow where one grew before is not only a benefactor to the human race, but stands a first class chance to make money in the transaction.

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One such incident occurred at Compiègne, early in the war. The farrier of the sixteenth Dragoons, hearing the charge sounding, rushed from the forge, leaped to horse, and dashed at the Germans, wielding the hammer with which he had been working at the anvil with terrible effect upon the foe.

Among members of the London Scottish who took part in their famous charge at Messines, is Private Greig. "It was in the thick of the charge," he explained, "when hand to hand fighting was at its height that my rifle and bayonet were knocked from my hands. At the same moment I found myself hemmed in by the enemy, three of whom confronted me with bayonets fixed. In a fit of desperation I seized the two outermost bayonets in my hand and forced them away from me, immediately ducking and striking at the third man with my fists. How I managed it I do not know, but the ruse proved successful, and in a few moments I was back amongst our own men, although my hands were too badly cut to allow of my participating further in the fighting at the time."

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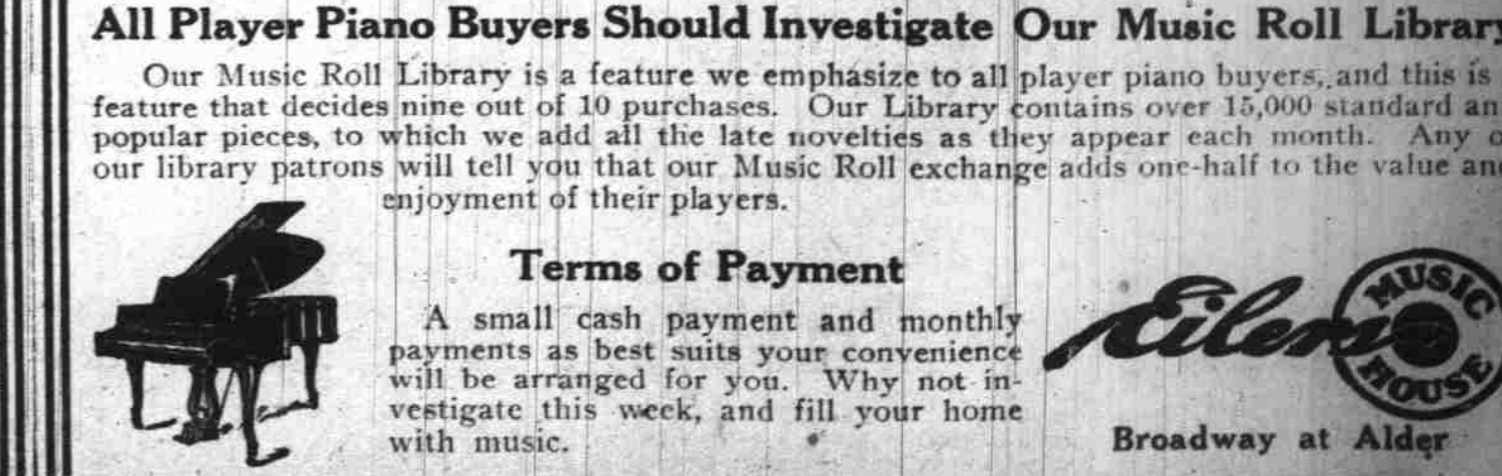
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