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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 11, 1915

HOW CHRISTMAS WAS
SPENT IN THE TRENCHES

By M. P. Sarl.

(By United Press Correspondent)

London, Jan. 30.—(By mail to New York.)—England lost a near-Kipling when a German shrapnel burst over the British advance line of trenches in the vicinity of Ypres and numbered among its victims Captain Robert Patrick Miles, of the Shropshire Light Infantry, attached to the Irish Rifles. Of all the letters from the front print in the English papers, none had breathed such a spirit of optimism nor portrayed with such humor and intimate detail the life in the trenches as those of this officer. Hitherto they had appeared anonymously. The last he wrote was a description of the amazing Christmas truce, arranged by the soldiers themselves after the pope had failed to induce the belligerent governments officially to enter into such an agreement. It did not reach England until two weeks after his death.

"We are having the most extraordinary Christmas day imaginable," wrote Captain Miles. "A sort of unarranged and quite unauthorized but perfectly understood and scrupulously observed truce exists between us and our friends in front. A regular soldiers' peace! The thing started last night soon after dusk when the German started shouting 'Merry Christmas, Englishmen!' to us. Of course, our fellows shouted back, and presently large numbers of both sides had left their trenches unarmed, and met in the debatable, shrapnel-riddled, no-man's-land between the lines.

"Here the agreement—all on their own—came to be made that we should not fire at each other till after midnight. There was a half-moon and the ground was covered with hoar-frost, and one could see

dim shapes wandering about or standing round in groups, English and Germans, where it would have been death to have shown a whisker an hour or so before. The men were all fraternizing in the middle (we naturally did not allow them too close to our line) and swapped cigarettes and lies in the utmost goodfellowship. Not a shot was fired all night.

"Today I took the opportunity of getting a close view of their wire entanglements and upon my word I am sorry I did. I was not half so enthusiastic about charging them as I was. There is to start with, about 20 feet of low wire to stumble through, then (on reflection I had better not go into details about this or the censor will sit up and take notice.) The details are revolting. Anyway there are several rows of trenches, each of them swept from the flanks by machine guns, and each with a horrid looking sort of exaggerated crenelated of barbed wire in front of it. Charging that little lot under heavy fire will be a very pleasant business. Confound the fellow that invented barbed wire. At the best, one will tear one's only pair of trousers, and at the worst one will get hung up in it while they shoot you in the more tender portions of your anatomy.

"The only real consolation I got out of my trip was that their trenches seem to be muddier, if possible, than ours. I was disappointed to see such a cheery lot of fellows, as I had hoped to see a collection of living skeletons half covered with rags—animated toast-racks in uniforms. The funny thing is that while we are fraternizing

Oranges.

We have only one half a car load left of those sweet, juicy Washington navel oranges in our store up on Lyon street, near the Oregon Electric depot. This is all we will have in. Prices \$2, \$2.25, a box.

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(5-12*)

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here, swapping bully beef for bread, and 'fags' for most execrable cigars (perhaps the gift of these is a symptom of hate), one can hear the dull booming of guns and a certain amount of rifle fire going on in the same old sweet way on our right and left. We neither of us know if our respective artillery behind will respect our little arrangement and abstain from taking advantage of what must be a very tempting mark, but hope for the best, as we are all mixed up in the middle.

"We had heard some awfully interesting latest news—made in Germany—as given out to our friends in front and which they implicitly believe. The main items are:

"1. Germans have taken Moscow.
"2. Russian casualties in the retreat, 3 and a half million.
"3. General Joffre is dead.
"4. British fleet is practically destroyed.
"5. The allies have sued for peace, the terms of which have been agreed.

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to and will be published in a fortnight.
"Saturday—The peace, which was supposed to terminate at midnight, still continues willy nilly. The baggards simply disregard all our warnings to get down from off their parapets, so things are at a deadlock. We can't shoot them in cold blood—and if we fire a shot over a man's head as a warning he simply turns round, waves his hand at us, and goes on with whatever he is doing. I cannot imagine a more extraordinary state of affairs. I cannot see how we are to get them to return to business. Our guns, from far away in the background, rather unspontaneously landed three high-explosive shells slap in their trench about ten o'clock. That sent them down for ten minutes or so, and then I'm dashed if a couple of them didn't come over and complain about it—didn't seem to think it was playing the game square at all. I rather fancy the powers that we are not best pleased with this state of affairs, but I do not see how we can help it. We are to be relieved this evening for our usual three-day rest.
The very day they returned to the trenches Capt. Miles met his death.

Athletic Meet Tonight.

New York, Feb. 10.—The New York Athletic club will hold its annual indoor athletic meet at Madison Square Garden tonight.

1915 Indians
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Dancers to Help Teuton Hospitals.

Philadelphia, Feb. 11.—Many prominent persons affiliated with German and Austrian relief societies will attend the ball of the German-Austrian relief association here tonight. The proceeds will be used to purchase ambulances and other needed medical supplies for German and Austrian hospitals abroad.

Dartmouth Hopes for Show.

Boston, Feb. 10.—Dartmouth athletes were hoping for snow today. Ski jumping is to be a feature of the fifth annual carnival of Dartmouth College Outing club, which opens tomorrow at Hanover and continues until February 13. Yale and Harvard are considering a plan to follow Dartmouth's lead and establish outing clubs.

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