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Semi-Open Warfare on British Front

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 14, via London.—(From a staff-correspondent of the Associated Press.)—It is not without difficulty that one comes to a realization that semi-open warfare has replaced the old deep trench fighting on the greater part of the British front. It is difficult even for the fighting men actually to grasp the situation, a situation for which they have waited so long. The Germans possibly feel the change more than any one else for, above all things, they love their underground comfort. The Germans were the first to transfer fighting to ditches and they are reluctantly giving up that style of warfare.

The deep dugouts and tunnels along the old front were the only protection the Germans had against the ever increasing British gunfire and every time they get an opportunity to pause now they immediately begin to dig in. They take to cover as if by second nature. The British have always contended that the Germans' dugouts soften the men who congregated in them always and could only be kept with difficulty in the open trenches. So it was easier to break the British of the trench habit than has been in the case with the Germans.

Open field tactics have been a part of the training of the new British Army ever since its organization began in 1914. There has been some criticism of that system from time to time on the ground that the war would always be fought from trench to trench, but for the last few months the British Army in France has been drilled in open tactics almost daily. The results of these training methods have been apparent in the last few days and will undoubtedly prove still more valuable in the wider operations which are unquestionably coming.

The correspondent saw a bit of field manoeuvring two days ago in which the British troops completely outwitted part of one of Germany's crack regiments. It is rather a striking commentary that when the war began the officer in command of the British unit was a young solicitor and such a thing as leading soldiers into battle had never entered his head. Two years of training in the school of actual war works its own wonders.

The losses in the recently inaugurated operations, which continue to widen with time, have been so much smaller than would be naturally expected in attacks upon such strong positions as those from which the Germans have been driven, that the army authorities are fairly jubilant. Another gratifying feature of the fighting has been the speed with which the British troops have everywhere attained their objectives. Driving the Germans from positions which they had held for two years, has given the army a higher fighting spirit than it ever had before. The turning of the top of the Hindenburg line, to which attention is now officially called in the communiques, has been an achievement of which the full importance has naturally not yet been developed. The Germans, by the way, no longer call this line after Hindenburg, but know it as the Siegfried line. The switch to that line from Queant north which, prisoners, say is not yet finished and was not expected to be used except as a last resort, is known as the Wotan line. In the extreme south the Hindenburg line is known as the Al-

brech line. The complete smashing of the Vimy Ridge seems to have some what upset the German plan, but they are evidently determined to put up the strongest possible defensive fight before falling back again to the uncompleted positions where dugouts are missing and the protection is doubtful.

These days are filled with thrilling incidents of individual exploits which are difficult to sort from the mass coming in from the battle front. One of the most remarkable is that of a young airman, who, although shot in the eye and the leg in an air duel yesterday, succeeded in bringing down the opposing machine in his own lines, dragged himself from the air plane, made a verbal report on his mission, and died a few moments later.

The gaps in the German defenses were made in two places. Positions on a front of three miles, between the double crassier and Givenchy, and an other mile on the north of the flank of the Hindenburg trench system, were captured. Advanced posts were pushed well toward Queant and Proville, important points in the German defenses. The Germans are fighting as they retire from Loos southward and are being hard pressed.

Fires and explosions in the territory to the rear of the German lines continue. The weather to-day was favorable for campaigning.

Turks Suffer Another Defeat

London, April 14.—(4.06 p. m.)—The Turks have sustained another defeat at the hands of the British in Mesopotamia. The war office announces that the Turks are in retreat after a battle in which they suffered heavy losses.

The Turks were driven from their positions near Ghaliyah, ten miles northeast of Deltawah. (Deltawah is 35 miles north of Bagdad.) They then withdrew toward Serak and thence toward Dalyabbas. The British pursuing the Turks. On Wednesday the Turks lost 200 killed and 700 wounded.

The announcement indicates that the British have wrecked the plan of Turks to bait the invading armies, which have been sweeping forward without serious interruption for several weeks. An official statement on Tuesday said that the Turks were preparing a converging movement against the British between the Adheim and Diale Rivers. It is in this region that the fighting now reported occurred.

Entire U. S. Coast Patrolled by Navy

Washington, April 10.—As a reassurance to cities along the Atlantic seaboard which are clamoring for protection from expected visits of German submarines or other hostile warships Secretary Daniels announced to-day that a patrol of the greatest effectiveness is possible for the officers of the navy to devise had been in operation since April 7 the day after the American declaration of a state of war.

Most of the city officials who have telegraphed to the Navy Department for protection have asked that one or two warships be stationed permanently off their coast or in their harbor. They generally refer dreadnoughts. Naval attaches at the embassies of the

Entente Powers are in almost daily conference with representatives of the Navy department perfecting the plans of co-operation which already are in effect. It has been made known that the co-operation will not be limited in any degree, and that it will be continued throughout the war.

Repairing The German Ships

New York, April 12.—(Montreal Star Special.) One hundred machinists and boiler makers, employed by the government, to-day boarded the five German passenger ships lying at West One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street and began repairing the damage done to the machinery by the crews before they were removed to the internment camp at Ellis Island.

The ships are the *Albatross*, the *Hamburg*, the *Koenig Wilhelm II*, the *Prinz Eitel Friedrich* and the *Prinz Joachim*.

As soon as the repairs are completed the ships will be utilized to carry supplies across the Atlantic to the Allies.

New York, April 10.—The officers and crew of the German Austrian merchantmen held at Ellis Island as prisoners of war signed certificates to-day assuring Collector of the Port Dudley Field Malone that there were no hidden explosives on the confiscated ships and that the damage already done was limited to the engines.

The assurances were given as the signal to a warning sounded by the Collector yesterday when he told the Germans that he would give them until a certain day to report any additional damage or hidden explosives on board the vessels.

If no reports were received and Americans were killed while inspecting or working on the ships, the collector told them the officers and crew of the ship involved would be held on charges of murder.

The collector has appointed a Commission to supervise the repairing of the damaged machinery.

D. Black—I suppose, M. S. Brown; that you have given the medicine according to directions?

Mrs. Brown—Well, doctor, I done my best, you said give Pete one o' those heah pills three times a day until gone, but I done it an' out o' pills yistaday an' he ha'n't gone yit.

THE FOX AND THE FLEAS

How Sly Reynard Got Rid of His Unwelcome Guests

Once there was a fox—a sly, sly fox, with a glossy brown coat and eyes that shone like little brown beads as he sat dozing in the sun before his den among the rocks.

Willie Flea had found much comfort in Mr. Fox's sleek coat. One day Mr. Fox, finding that Willie's cousins and sisters and uncles and aunts were all taking advantage of his fine fur, decided he would once and for all get rid of the colony. So he went into his den, and thought long and hard of the matter. Finally, with a sly wink he started towards the river nearby.

On the way, Mr. Fox paused under a



chestnut tree and selected a twig of the chestnut tree wood. This he held tightly in his teeth and started for the river which ran deep and clear at the foot of the tree.

Willie Flea grew unhappy and frightened as Mr. Fox started to wade across the water. Step by step Mr. Fox descended the bank until his face only protruded. Then Willie Flea, seeing he must surely drown, called all his relatives, and they scooted out on the stick of wood which Mr. Fox held above the surface. It was just what Mr. Fox wanted! When Willie Flea reached the furthest point of the stick, Mr. Fox suddenly let it go, and the whole flea family including Willie tumbled into the water and drowned! Then Mr. Fox waded back to shore and sat laughing at his own cleverness, and ever afterwards that's the way all the foxes got rid of their Willie Fleas.

London Bridge has been burnt down six times.

Shakespeare's plays brought him in about \$100 a year.

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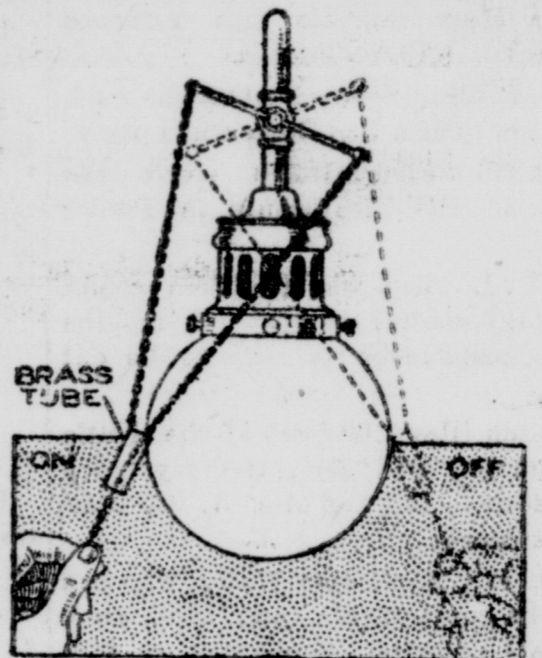
In 1/2, 1 and 2 pound tins. Whole—ground—pulverized—also fine ground for Percolators. Never sold in bulk. 183 CHASE & SANBORN, MONTREAL.

RECORD RAILWAYS

Russia has beaten all records in railway construction. She built a great double-track, broad-gauge line from Alexandrovsk, an ice-free port on her north coast, down to Petrograd, and completed it within six months. It is 1,220 miles long, and 10,000 men, mostly prisoners, were employed upon it. Then look at the Great Siberian railway! Five thousand five hundred and twenty-seven miles of line, most of it across wild plain and forest and over great mountain ranges, in a climate where for five months of the year the soil is frozen to the consistency of granite, and all this in eight summers! It is a record which, even in North America, has never been equalled. It cost one hundred and forty millions, and since its completion another twenty-two millions have been spent in improving the line.

The best work done in America under similar, but even worse conditions, was the construction of the White Pass and Yukon Railway, which spanned up the route from the coast to Skagway to the gold region of Klondike. Within twenty miles from its starting point this line has to climb the White Pass, a height of just over three thousand feet. When the station at the summit was opened seven feet of snow surrounded it, and the thermometer registered 57 degrees below zero—that is, 89 degrees of frost!

Distinguishing Fixture Chains. Inconspicuous through inability to locate quickly the proper chain for lighting a gas lamp in the dark was overcome by fitting a small brass tube to one of the chains as shown in the illustration. The tube was soldered



ed to the chain by which the light is turned on and the other chain passes through the tube and is grasped below it. To turn on the light, it is only necessary to slide the hand along both chains and to grip the tube, drawing on the chain attached to it. To turn the light off, the exposed end of the other chain is drawn.—Popular Mechanics.

CATS AND DOGS DOOMED

It is contended that there is enough meat wasted on dogs every day in London to feed thousands of poor people. Big dogs costing \$1.50 and \$1.75 a week to keep are owned by people who are helping to keep up the price of food. In London alone there are nearly 180,000 dogs, and in Greater London, which includes the County of London, there are more than a quarter of a million, all needing food every day, all helping to keep up the price of food. There are no statistics relating to cats, but it is a fair estimate to reckon that in the 1,500,000 families resident in London and Greater London there are at least 750,000 cats. Cats and dogs in this great area of human habitation number at least 1,000,000. How much money is spent on their maintenance it is impossible to say. Bread, meat, and milk consumed by them every day must be of considerable proportions. If out of the 750,000 cats half of them got a saucer of milk each day—a matter of a quarter of a pint—they would lap up 12,000 gallons of milk daily, costing \$6,000 a day, or over \$40,000 a week. These 12,000 gallons of milk would give a pint of vital food to over 90,000 poor children; they would ensure more than a quart of milk each day for every necessitous child fed by the London County Council.

HANGMAN'S OPINION

Medicinal of Canada Thought Himself a Great Murderer

In 1912 Radcliffe, previously the editor of the *Hangman*, was "converted" under mesmeric influences. The son of an English clergyman, he confessed during his term of office at 222 hangings. Caused by the crisis of the soul he had buried into stern Radcliffe declared, "I will go to hell now, and to terrible punishment, but I won't kill another man. I trust the Almighty will visit the nations with dire calamity if they don't stop taking the lives of their fellows, no matter how heinous the crime. Murderers should be allowed to live as long as possible and work out their salvation on behalf of the State."

Reckless Shooting

When field shooting in a settled community, never fire a shot which has less than forty rods of a house, or of people at work in the field. That is the permission may have been granted to shoot where you wished in all the more reason why the rights of the generous proprietor should be carefully guarded. For the same reason keep out of stock pasture and ranges from teams; that the ill-will of hunters towards hunters is engendered by reckless shooting that might be avoided.

Prohibitive Courses

How small a proportion of the sons and daughters of farmers in this country can ever expect to take a course in one of the recognized agricultural colleges! Increasing agricultural education must come through the public school.

NOWHERE SAFE FROM LIGHTNING'S FLASHES

Not Foolish to be Afraid of Thunderstorms—Some Places Safer Than Others

The question is often asked as to the location of greatest safety during a thunderstorm. In this respect it may be said that there is no place or object in the path of a thunderstorm that is not liable to a stroke of lightning. Places or objects may be more or less liable to a stroke of lightning according to their relative exposure, etc., but no place in the path of a thunderstorm is to be considered as one upon which a stroke of lightning is not likely to fall.

The location of complete safety during a thunderstorm is, therefore, one in which, even though a stroke of lightning does fall upon it, no harm will come to the occupants. Such a location may be found only in a space entirely surrounded by a metal net work in a steel frame building, or in an underground chamber.

No Absolute Safety

With the exception of places similar to those three, there does not seem to be any place where absolute safety may be obtained. The next degree of safety is undoubtedly to be found in houses or other buildings which are protected by lightning rods, but, although the degree of safety which can be attained by using rods may be very high, the risk can not be entirely eliminated. In the event of a stroke on an unprotected building there is considerable danger to life, but there is no doubt that an unprotected house is preferable to the open, under trees, or in unprotected out-buildings. When a stroke falls on an unprotected house sheltering a family of the average number of persons, the minimum chances of escape are 45 in 100. In all probability, however, the chances of escape are much greater than this.

Better Indoors

In 254 instances of casualties in unprotected houses which are given in these records, there were 117 cases of death and 137 cases of injury. From the same source it is found that in 153 cases of persons struck in open fields, 116 were killed and 37 were injured. In nine cases of persons struck near wire fences, eight were killed and one injured. It seems, therefore, that it is far better to take shelter in a house which is not protected against lightning than to take chances in the open, where everything is damp and hence the ability to shock or injury far greater than in a dry place.