

DESCRIPTION OF BIG BERTHA
THE GUN THAT MADE PARIS
QUAKE DURING THE GREAT WAR

(Col. Henry W. Miller)

Colonel Henry W. Miller, in his recent book, The Paris Gun, has given to the world some details of the great weapons mounted by the Germans in 1918 in the forest of St. Gobain, to shell Paris seventy miles away. It is reviewed in the New York Times, and the following article are some extracts from the article:

"At 7 o'clock in the morning of March 23, 1918, the people of Paris were astir. The day was cloudless. At 7.20 something exploded violently on the Quai de Seine. An air bomb! This was nothing new for Paris. Planes had repeatedly bombed them, but not for years in the daytime. Why no alarm? Twenty-minutes later another bomb exploded near the Gare de l'Est, close to a Metro entrance on the Boulevard de Strasbourg. Eight persons were killed, thirteen wounded. In all seven 'bombs' exploded that day, but it was not until after the seventh had done its deadly work that the alarm was sounded and all Paris was thrown into confusion.

"Long before this Paris officialdom was at work. Anti-aircraft observers scanned the skies vainly. Planes soared aloft to give battle to the enemy planes there were none. Headquarters at the front were telephoned to ask why no alarm had been sent, as was usual, of the approach of aircraft. Observers at the front insisted that no aircraft had passed the lines. The artillery office got busy. A most remarkable conclusion was arrived at: the grooves and copper bands showed the 'bombs' to be fired from a gun! The suspicious French at first thought French guns had been trained on the capital. But for short-range shooting the aims were erratic, some of the shells falling almost five miles away from each other. The idea was dismissed.

"The shells must have come from beyond the German line. But how? The nearest point of the lines was more than 70 miles away. Absurd! No gun could fire even half of that distance, not even the huge fifteen-inch naval gun. The fragments were again examined. It was assumed to be a fairly light shell, and the width of its grooves and the curious stepping of the shell aroused the conjecture that it had been fired from a high velocity gun having an extremely long bore. On the assumption that the shells had come from a German gun, the shots were plotted on a map of Paris. A straight line drawn between them led to the nearest point of the front lines. This led to the assumption that a gun was emplaced in the St. Gobain Wood. Aerial photographs were scanned and showed some fresh railroad spurs into the wood. That was enough. Heavy naval guns were ordered up to counter.

"For months the shells continued to rain on Paris. Sometimes there was an interval of a few days, once of a month. Many of the shells fell outside of the city, but many of them hit the target, some of them doing considerable damage. On Good Friday a shell hit the Church of St. Gervais.

"The place was crowded," writes Colonel Miller. "It was just 4.30. Suddenly the hundreds of kneeling worshippers were startled by a terrific crash overhead, an explosion. A projectile had struck the roof. Those looking up quickly saw a stone pillar crumpling beginning to fall. Then the stone vault supported by this pillar began to crack, crumple, and in a second scores of tons of stone, some blocks weighing a half ton, were pouring down upon the mass of people. Gradually the dead and dying were uncovered and were carried past the bowed onlookers. Eighty-eight were dead, nineteen men, sixty-seven women, two children, and sixty-eight more were injured."

A Long Range

"Early in 1916 Dr. Van Eberhardt presented theories and calculations showing that a gun of sixty mile range was possible. For once the military powers were enthusiastic and the building of the gun began. At the end of the year Ludendorff saw that a gun with a range of only sixty miles would be useless and he telegraphed Krupp to increase the range of the gun to seventy-five miles. To the technicians he seemed to be ordering a miracle; but Krupp performed one for him. Three guns were ready in March 1918.

"The emplacements necessary were enormous, the steel carriage plates weighed hundreds of tons, the gun carriages hundreds of tons more, and the gun proper, as high as the average 10-story building, weighed almost 200 tons. A monster, indeed! Its shells, however, were relatively small, 264 pounds of curious shape. The bore was but 8.26 inches, and—extraordinary feature—smooth; the shell turned itself. It had a range of seventy-five miles and its trajectory was twenty-four miles high! Five guns were used in this emplacement. Four of them rapidly wore themselves out, one exploded prematurely. The French began bombarding the gun position. Another site was chosen, and rebored guns having a larger calibre went into action. Seven guns in all were made or rebored. When the last shot was fired in August a total of 367 had been fired at Paris.

The remarkable thing about the operation of the guns was the extraordinary precision of every detail, especially the calculations by the ballistics officer. Each gun had a pressure chamber, and, after the gun had fired, this officer read the pressure in the barrel and from it was able to compute, within a relatively few yards, where the shell had struck. If the pressure was high, the gun overshot; if it was low, the shells fell short. Each shell fired had a new position in the gun, each new position required a new calculation. There were three powder charges; a variable charge in a silk bag, a standard charge in a silk bag, and a huge cartridge charge for firing. Each shot required a different charge in the first silk bag and calculations had to be made of the temperature of the powder and of the gun. Even the earth curvature was figured.

"The Paris gun—a collective name—caused more than 1,000,000 people to leave Paris and as many people and as many people ought to read about it, for it was one of the World War's most dramatic chapters."

GOOD WORK BY
THE N. B. P. P. ON
THE MIRAMICHI

(Chatham Gazette)

The meanest thief in Northumberland county broke into the Nelson school house Friday night and stole a sum of \$8.00 that the scholars had collected from the sale of poppies for the widows and orphans of our Soldier Dead. The money was to have been sent to Col. Barry for this purpose.

Officer Wedge of the Provincial Police hopes to lay this culprit by the heels and everyone will wish him well in the project.

The same officer dealt with a Chatham man who was starting to paint the town of Newcastle a vermilion hue after imbibing a few drinks. The little spree cost the festive one \$10.00 and costs of \$6.

A break was made into George Currie's store, Chatham Head, Monday night.

The famous calf case in which

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LORD ROBERTS
WAS BLIND
IN ONE EYE

LORD ROBERTS WAS mrlg STR's Manchester, Eng., :—That the late Lord Roberts was blind in one eye is disclosed by Lt-Gen. Sir Gerald E. Ellison in the October issue of the "Lancashire Lady," the Royal Regiment's journal.

Sir Gerald states that when he was Haldane (then Mr. Haldane, secretary for War) he received the following letter from Lord Roberts:

Dear Ellison,

Please show this correspondence to Mr. Haldane.

It seems to me very absurd to refuse a man who has volunteered to serve in the auxiliary forces because he wore spectacles. In foreign armies this has not been, and there are several officers in the Army who wear eyeglasses.

I lost the sight on one eye as an infant from brain fever, and under existing regulations I could not have entered the Army.

Believe me, your sincerely,

ROBERTS.

December 9, 1906.

Remarking that this letter will come as a revelation to the mass of his countrymen and countrywomen, Sir Gerald recalls that, some years later, when lunching with the late Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson, he mentioned the letter.

"Have you got that in writing?" asked Lord Nicholson and when told yes, remarked: "Well, I was most surprised. It is quite true that Lord Roberts sees with one eye only, but he has been extremely anxious all his life to conceal the fact."

Sir Gerald adds that he cannot help regarding the letter as of national interest and importance, and proposes depositing it for safe custody with the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall.

It seems a remarkable fact, he adds, that three of England's greatest commanders of the nineteenth century—Nelson, Wolseley and Roberts—should have all been one-eyed men.

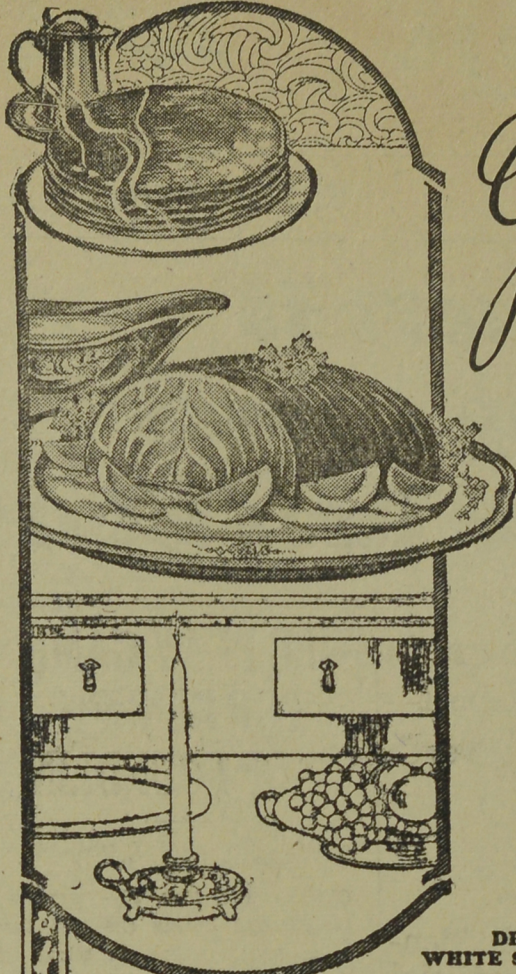
If the "buy now" movement can keep things moving a week or two longer, the "do your Christmas shopping early" slogan will do the rest.

You can't fool the people unless you're their candidate.

Daughney and McCormack are charged by Michael McCafferty with theft will be decided today by Magistrate Demers.

Officer Wedge also rounded up a number of the younger element who had broken windows in the Lower Newcastle school and they got a rattling from their parents who had to pay the damage.

Some ten children of Newcastle ranging from 9 to 13 years broke into a private residence in that town and the Provincial police brought these youthful offenders before the magistrate who gave them a very severe reprimand for their mischievous conduct.



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1/2 cup Borden's St. Charles Milk;
1/4 cup water; 1 1/2 tbsps. butter;
1 1/2 tbsps. flour; 1 scant half
tspn. salt; high seasoning of
pepper or paprika.

STEAMED SALMON WITH
WHITE SAUCE

1 slice salmon, about 2 pounds;
once the recipe for white sauce as
printed at left; 2 hard cooked
eggs; parsley.

Wipe off the salmon with a damp
cloth; lay it on a well-oiled plate,
dust lightly with salt and pepper,
and steam for thirty minutes. Then
carefully remove the skin, transfer
the fish to the center of a medium-
sized platter, surround with white
sauce and garnish with the egg cut
in sixths, and the parsley.

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