

## WILL CRIPPLE AIR SERVICE OF GERMANY

Terms of Armistice Giving 2,000 of Germany's Aircraft to Allies Puts Her Out of the Air.

London, Dec. 10.—For the Allies to take 2,000 airplanes from Germany, in accordance with the terms of the armistice, means militarily crippling Germany in the air beyond hope of early recovery, while immensely adding to the aerial strength of the Allies, says an aviation expert. This is emphasized he says, by the fact that in five months of the heaviest air fighting of the war, Germany lost in aerial combat with the British alone something like 2700 machines. To this total must be added the destruction wrought by the French and American air services.

The expert asserts that for several months before the armistice, Germany's capacity for producing airplanes was unequal to the task of replacing her immense losses. This he adds, was strikingly illustrated by the almost complete failure of her air arm during final and most critical phase of the war.

The declaration of war by Great Britain at midnight, August 5, 1914, found the Royal flying corps with only four squadrons in being—representing well under 100 airplanes. Three of these squadrons went instantly to France. A new squadron followed these pioneers in about ten days time while a fifth squadron, mobilized and sent out in 24 hours, reached the fighting zone about the middle of September.

In those early days of the war, machines were used simply for strategic reconnaissance. It was not until after the battle of the Aisne, when settled line warfare was established that artillery fire control from the air, and the cruder form of cooperation with

## ONE OF THE LOVE LETTERS OF A ROOKIE TO DERE MABLE

Joe Loomis:

Don't get that confused with Tinkers' Dam, Mable. Tinker's Dam is tecknickle and aint even French I wish you knew more about these foreign languages. I always herd a fello could express himself better in French than anything else. That's because nobody understands him an he can say anything he wants to.

The Christmas holidays is over. I spent mine doin kitchen police. The only thing what pealed for me on Christmas morning was potatoes, an the only thing what rung was dish-cloths. But I guess you ain't familiar enough with the poets to get that, Mable. It shows that I can be funny an bright though even under adversity conditions. Kitchen police don't explain what I do very well. I don't walk a beet or carry a club or arrest nobody or nothin. I just—well, I wish that hired girl of yours could come down and do kitchen police for a couple of days. She wouldn't be quite as regular as she does.

We celebrated Christmas by sleepin till a quarter to seven instead of half past six. Only they forget to tell the fello that blows the horn, an he blew

the infantry were practiced and developed.

As late as June 1915, ordinary rifles with shortened barrels were carried by British pilots, and hand grenades were flung at enemy aviators in the air.

The development of formation fighting and the evolution of aerial gunnery dates from about this time when the machine gun became an essential part of the equipment of fighting pilots and observers.

it at haf past six anyway. Imagine if anybody home had told me I could sleep till a quarter of seven Christmas morning. I guess you know what I'd a told him, eh, Mable?

There's a fello in town what says he'll send flowers anywhere you want by telegraph. I was goin to send you some for Christmas morning. Then I figgered it was a silly idea. In the first place, they'd get all smashed on the way. An then you can't fet enough flowers in one of them little envelopes to make one good smell. Nothin if not right. That's me all over, Mable.

I had dinner in twon with Max Glucoses mother. He's a fello in our tent. She's a nice enough old lady but she ain't military, Mable. We was walking down the street before dinner an salutin officers so fast it looked like we was scratchin' our forehead. An every time we saluted se bowed. I didn't say nothin cause after all she was payin for the dinner. Later on though she says, "I think it's fine you boys has so many friends among the officers, cause I think there such nice men." Can you beat it, Mable? An when she went home she sent Max an officer's hat cord cause she said she didn't think it would fade as quick as that old blue thing he was wearin.

I like to forget to thank you for the Christmas presents you an your mother sent. I'm glad you minded what I said about not wantin nothin, though I'd sent you two presents what was worth more than I could afford (\$4.87). As I said to Joe Loomis who was in the tent when your presents came, it ain't what the thing cost or wether you could ever use it for anything. Its the thought. Sentiment before pleasure. That's me all over Mable.

Thanks for the red swetter, Mable. We ain't allowed to use them. But you don't want to feel bad about that cause I got lots of others and didn't need it anyway. An tell your mother thanks for the preserves an cake. I think that's what they was. They must have packed them between a steam roller and a donkey engine from the looks. Joe Loomis picked out most of the glass an tried some. He'd eat anything, that fello, Mable. He said it must have been pretty good when it started. Tel that to your

## AMERICA HAD FINE HOSPITAL ORGANIZATION

Over Forty Hospital Trains in Operation—Dept. Had More Than Its Share of Casualties.

General Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, Nov. 27.—A vast expansion of the medical service of the American army in France was projected before the armistice was signed but the plan was suspended when hostilities were stopped. In addition to the 83,240 beds then ready for use in camps and hospitals 423,722 normal beds and 541,239 expansion beds were in process of construction or procurement in preparation for expected campaigns.

Twenty-one American hospital trains and twenty borrowed French hospital trains were in operation while 23 more hospital trains and 20 so-called "sitting trains" were under construction.

The consumption of medical supplies runs into big figures, for there has been no scarcity of such material. Bandages have been issued to a total of 24,624,000 besides 10,339,200 yards of yard-wide gauze. In addition have been issued one million ounces of absorbent cotton, 1,500,000 first aid packets in addition to the original issue to each man and of foot powder, the soldier's best friend on the march or in the wet, 1,548,000 pounds.

These are only some of the medical supplies. Pins and safety pins, sutures and iodine swabs run into the millions soap, ether, carbolic acid and iodine are totalled in hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The medical department has paid probably more than its proportion in casualties. List of killed and wounded in doctors and nurses and other branches of the corps is a long one, testifying to the devotion and bravery of these non-combatants.

## WHY BELGIANS STILL NEED HELP

"In travelling through Belgium with the Belgian armies, I have been able to see the country recently tenanted by the Bochs in the condition in which they left it, and never was there such desolation anywhere. One cannot get away from signs of destruction, no matter where one goes, along the country roads or in the city streets.

Not only has property been destroyed and every means of livelihood taken away from the people, but the peasants, especially in the country districts, have been left destitute both of home and food. We travelled twelve miles yesterday through open country and as but one small instance of the vast plundering of the Germans, let me state that in all twelve miles not one solitary live animal did we see, and practically every tree had been felled, so you can imagine the dreary aspect of the scenery.

All the peasant women and children we met on our way, said a rews correspondent, while they greeted us with cheers and received us into their homes with open arms, those that had homes, showed the greatest suffering from insufficient food and nourishment. They did not complain, but merely stated as a fact that they had not tasted meat for two months and had lived largely on soup and coffee.

The cry of the Belgians today is for food and clothing and those who would help, no matter how little, should send their contributions to their committee, or direct to the Central Committee, Belgian Relief Fund, 59 St. Peter street, Montreal.

## CASTORIA

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mother. I know it will please her. I got so many presents from other girls an the like that its kind of hard to remember if you sent me anything else. If you did just tell me in your next letter and I'll thank you when I rite again.

I hope my presents arrived all right. I guess you'll like 'em. You ought to at the price. As I says to the girl what sold em when she said she didnt have nothin cheaper, "Nothin's too good for where there goin." Isn't that tippical of me, Mable?

Well, Mable, perhaps next year He send you a Dutch helmet maybe. It ain't no use wishin you a happy New Year, cause I know how it'll be with me away an your father what he is.

Yours regardless,

BILL.

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