

CARNAGE AT FLANDERS WORST IN WAR'S PROGRESS

Nov. 4—The Daily Chronicle publishes the following, sent by correspondent from Northeast

the battle of Flanders has now, in the night, been in progress for ten days. Though at the time at which I write, the struggle cannot be said to have reached its conclusion, I think it is safely stated that the result is longer in any doubt, and the situation can be summed up in the following form.

A German raid on the three towns of this part of France—Calais and Boulogne—has been frustrated but the raiders have been punished in a manner which cannot fail to have a serious effect on the morale of the German army and on the plan of campaign.

At night the air is pulsating with the dull throb of contending arms. The dread music of the guns is the loud and tragic finale of the bloodiest battle of the war, and it has been one of its most

of the night reports from the front is that of a lull in the titanic struggle. The Allies were said to be in impregnable positions and fighting with magnificent élan and with that splendid spirit bred of certainty of victory. And they were victors everywhere.

"The Germans were struggling with the valor of desperation, their spirit almost at its last ebb. Now and then they came with superb dash and with high bravery, which must be acknowledged, they pushed forward here and there, only to be driven back.

"Again and again they returned to the charge, the long line swayed and reformed itself. It twisted and straightened again, but it held everywhere. Thursday's sun sank and two weary armies welcomed the darkness. Here and there under its cover the enemy abandoned their lines of trenches but this did not mean retreat.

CARNAGE RENEWED.

"Before the morning light illuminated a field of most awful carnage the guns were at it again with redoubled vigor, shaking the windows of houses within a range of twenty miles and waking people from their sleep. The artillery duel opened a terrible day. Hardly was it light than great masses of the enemy were attacking once more. Undoubtedly extremely strong reinforcements had arrived. It was not a local attack; it extended along the whole front in Belgium, and then spread itself away beyond Lille, to the south and southwest of which it raged with particular violence.

"I think it may be said that for the time being the battle of Flanders, renewed in this manner, partook of the nature of a diversion while a desperate effort was being made to penetrate the line in the region of Basses Canal, in pursuance of the German plan of reaching the coast first at the fortified town of Boulogne. However that may be, the day on the Flanders front saw as savage fighting as any of the fifteen that had gone before it.

WORLD'S BLOODIEST BATTLE.

"The battle of Flanders will undoubtedly go down in history as the most sanguinary in three months of war. Before the struggle for the road to Calais is ended—and ended I am sure it will be at an early moment—the battle will almost certainly be marked down in history with the hideous fame of being the bloodiest battle in the whole world's history.

"The slaughter on the Marne and the Aisne pales before that on the undulating countryside of Flanders. It is indeed doubtful if the number of those who have perished ever will be exactly reckoned or known.

"Those who have been in the battle tell me the grimmest stories of the slaughter of the past week. Fields and swelling seaside dunes are littered with dead in great heaps. In the deep trenches death has come in whole sale fashion and has filled the trenches up to the year—a name to be remembered in history forever—which has, it can be said without exaggeration, run with blood. The canals at some places can be bridged with dead bodies. The land, which has been flooded between Nieupoort and Dixmude, is an inferno which words really fail to describe. The water is thick with corpses and are muddy with the splash of shells.

"It was a terrible sight, an officer tells me, to see Germans caught in their entrenchments when the flood came rushing in upon them. Just at that time the fire from the fleet and from the batteries of the allied forces was increased very greatly in intensity.

"On the edge of the flooded area the infantry were at work with bullet and bayonet. In a flood of fire and water, in a perfect tornado of terror which no one who saw it can ever possibly wipe out of his memory, trench after trench was taken, and a deep wedge was driven into the German positions.

"More shells than in the Boer war. I talked with a soldier of the Black Watch. 'It's hell back there,' he said. He sat down and we listened to the booming of the guns. He told me how the guns of the monitors raked the trenches.

"Why," he said, "there have been more shells thrown between the sea and Dixmude during the last week than were fired during the whole of the Boer war. I was in one trench which was charged by the Germans fifteen times in two days and a night, and without success. After that it was simply impossible to charge any more as the ground was strewn so thickly with dead bodies.

"Seven of the charges were made during the night, and during the last six or seven days most of the heaviest fighting has been done after dark. But those Germans are brave. One must say that they come on again and again in such numbers! But when they see the glint of the British bayonet they simply turn and run!

"Severest in the long battle have been the night encounters and the charges. The artillery fire, both from sea and land, has exceeded anything in intensity known in the war so far. The English artillery has done extraordinarily effective work. Captured German officers express their surprise at the volume of fire from the English position and at its amazing accuracy. Belgian and French officers have given me vivid accounts of the night attacks. They were very severe tests for the men in the trenches, but not on one single occasion has success crowned an effort of that kind. The scenes in the searchlight that streaked the darkness were eerie in the extreme. Shells, shrapnel and bullets roar and whistle through the night.

"In the trenches men fire into darkness. The charging enemy rush forward, not seeing a yard in front of them. Then the searchlight flashes and flares, revealing the oncoming men. A shower of lead and a rain of shrapnel bursts upon them. In the vivid light they fall in a heap after heap, then fade away, followed into their trenches by the searchlight's glare. The other side sends out its men. There is a strange silence and they come upon deserted trenches. The betraying light shifts forward again to guide the cannons' fire as they search the trenches.

"The enemy has retired again. There is a charge, which dies away as those before it did. Again the trenches are abandoned, then again. Perhaps a line of trenches will be recovered by tremendous effort and upon it the British and French artillery will rain death and destruction. So it is that the battle goes on. Every yard of ground is won at tremendous effort and lost at appalling loss.

(From N. Y. TELEGRAM)

"Germany's promise" to respect the Peace Doctrine, over which Count von Bernstorff and other press agents of the Kaiser in America have been making so much here of late, now goes the way of other myths "made in Germany" since the beginning of the big war. The day's dispatches from Washington say that the "promise" was nothing more than a Bernstorffian denial of unconfirmed newspaper reports that Germany contemplated an invasion of South America. They add that the State Department officials regard this as "far from an acceptance" of the Monroe Doctrine.

To the bored public the pains taken by State Department officials to set the matter in its true light must appear as a needless waste of both time and energy. What did it matter whether the "promise" was in the form of a letter from Ambassador von Bernstorff or a duly signed treaty? Hasn't the Kaiser shown his contempt for a mere piece of paper in a convincing enough way? Why quibble over form? It's the play that counts.

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A True Socialist

An amusing story is told of a Devonshire man who invited a Socialist to visit his estate and see what he had done for the villagers.

As they drove about the men touched their hats and the boys and girls "bobbed" and curtsied.

Soon they passed a man smoking his pipe, who took no notice of the squire. "Ah!" said the Socialist. "That's the sort of man for me. No bowing and scraping."

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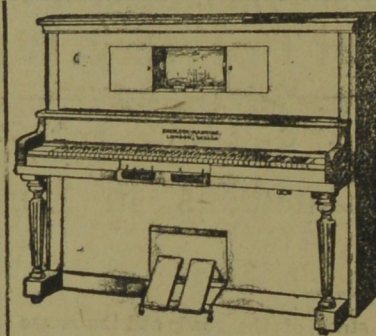
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