

HEROIC BRITISH DEEDS

WERE ACCOMPLISHED ON THE ITALIAN BATTLEFRONT.

The British Occupy, Under General Plumer, the Oval-shaped Chain of Hills Which Hinge the Austrian Offensive.

Italian Headquarters, June 20.—Montello, the oval-shaped chain of hills which hinge the Austrian offensive, has been occupied for several months by the British, who came to Italy under General Plumer. A British division occupied the southwestern ridges of the Asiago plateau, with the French on their right.

The British, after reconquering the advanced positions momentarily abandoned on Saturday morning with a view of strengthening the line, not only resisted all Austrian attempts, but brilliantly counter-attacked in a fashion that caused an Italian superior officer to remark: "They are slamming the gates of Italy in the face of the invader."

A detachment of British cyclists accomplished heroic deeds. They were changing position, and moving along a sunken road parallel to the front. Suddenly they ran into a vastly superior Austrian contingent barring the way. Instead of fleeing, they dismounted and advanced with fixed bayonets. Simultaneously the Austrians were ordered to charge, and the two waves of bayonets clashed. A terrific fight ensued, but the splendid physique and undaunted courage of the British cyclists proved too much for the Austrians, who fled, discarding their rifles, the British pursuing and capturing many rifles and prisoners.

One of the most successful features of the organization of the Italian army consists in the wise distribution and rapid handling of reserves, which is illustrated by the brilliant feat on the British sector, and is further testified to by the splendid Anglo-Italian camaraderie. The British defenders of a certain position were ordered to retire, with a view to straightening the salient. A small detachment was left on the crest of a hill 3,000 feet high, to cover the withdrawal. The Austrians, who immediately perceived the operation, tried to overwhelm the detachment, but the latter although almost completely surrounded and outnumbered ten fold, succeeded in holding the enemy at bay.

The commander of an Alpine detachment on the left of the British detachment decided on his own initiative to attempt to rescue the Britishers. The question was whether the Alpine would be able to arrive in time to find the defenders alive. The commander of the Alpine said: "We would be too late if any but the British bulldogs were defending the position and if any but the Alpine Chamois were rushing to their rescue." The Italian Alpine thereupon dashed forward and were received by the British with cheers for Italy. The Austrians were taken aback by this unexpected onslaught that they wavered, whereupon the commander of the British detachment leaped to the top of the trench and ordered a charge. The Austrians were ordered to withdraw in face of the attack, both in the front and on the flank.

Gas warfare is as yet in its infancy. It has already revolutionized military methods almost as completely as did the invention of gunpowder, and doubtless it will undergo an enormous and very horrible development before the present century comes to an end.

This war may be finished in the chemical laboratory. The poison gas problem is occupying the attention of thousands of skilled chemists all over the world. With eager hopefulness they are trying to find a gas that is extremely deadly, yet odorless and colorless, so that it may be neither smelled nor seen. What they seek is the invisible death—a gas that will poison the air, yet give no warning of its presence. Whole armies may be destroyed by it without even knowing that they are in danger. Let a chemist discover such a gas, and the war is won.

To serve satisfactorily for "clouds" a gas must be heavier than air, and must meet certain other definite requirements. Hence it comes about that only two, chlorine and phosgene, have been found available for this purpose. But where gas shells are concerned, the whole domain of organic chemistry is opened up.

Any poisonous compound that is insoluble into vapor by heat may be used for loading a gas shell—the fluid or solid being transformed into gas by the explosion of a charge of T.N.T. which (with a fuse) the shell carries. There is no dependence upon a favoring wind, and the lethal vapor is liberated just where it is likely to do the most damage.

Gas shells ordinarily weigh only six pounds, and a veritable storm of them may be thrown from a few batteries of so-called quick-firing guns. At Cambrai, in this way, the Germans soon filled a wood so full of poison vapor (not knowing that the British had vacated it) that human beings could not have long survived there, even with the protection of gas masks.

It will be understood, then, why it is that to-day, in the new warfare, gas shells are playing a vastly more important part than gas clouds. Virtually all bombardments are with mixed projectiles, some gas and others not, which are marked with crosses of different colors for ready recognition, the artillerymen being provided with programs for firing them.

Gas shells are not used for bar-bages. They are fired at picked targets—say, a field howitzer occupying a position with an overhead cover. Only a direct hit will put the gun out of business, but gas will enter the gun-pit if shells burst near it, perhaps killing some of the gunners, but at least compelling them to don masks. This lowers the rate of the howitzer's fire; for, with masks on, the artillerymen work at a disadvantage.

Or it may be that the target is a crossroads, when there is always more or less confusion when supplies and ammunition are being transported to the front. A few well-placed gas shells, especially at night, the range having been ascertained in the daytime, will throw everything into disorder, incidentally impeding the work by compelling the men to put on their masks.

The first poison shells were used at the Somme by the Germans in 1916, and since then they have exhibited a most devilish ingenuity in developing new kinds of gases for loading such projectiles. They have been experimented with a "sneezing gas" which induces stertorous spasms of such violence that a man can hardly keep his mask on.

The "tear shells" (another Hun invention) contain substances derived from coal tar, and which, in the ordinary kind, are so powerful that one part of the vapor in 1,000,000 of atmospheric air is enough to make a man almost helpless with weeping. This sort of stuff, however, is mild compared with the "mustard gas" called, though it smells more like garlic—which has no immediate effect on the eyes except a slight irritation. But after several hours have elapsed the eyes begin to swell, becoming inflamed and even blistered. These symptoms are accompanied by intense pain, with profuse discharges from the nose, coughing and sometimes vomiting.

Mustard was first used by the Germans at Ypres, in July, 1917. Afterward, at Neuport, they fired no fewer than 50,000 shells loaded with the abominable stuff in a single night.—Philosophia Public Ledger.

Bavarians Recent Allied Bombing. The increasing damage to German lives and property by allied bombs was the cause of a recent stormy session in the Bavarian Lower House, when several deputations brought in interpellations demanding that the Government take steps for the indemnification of those whose property had been destroyed or damaged.

FIGHTING WITH GAS.

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One of these interpellations declared: "Does the Government know that the population of Bavaria, and especially of the Palatinate, is subjected to air raids which are becoming more and more frequent, and is suffering especially severe material losses? What does the Government intend to do in order to indemnify those affected? Lately the number of attacks by enemy aviators on cities of the Palatinate has grown rather considerable."

Another interpellation requests the Government to insure the population.

Objected to Discount. A simple-minded lumberjack from the West at the front with our troops wrote a letter asking for \$50, and addressed it to "The Good Lord, care of the Y.M.C.A., France." His letter was so simple, direct, and full of faith that the boys around the Y.M.C.A. camp decided to chip in and send him \$25. He acknowledged the money with a heart full of thanks but added this postscript: P.S.—Good Lord: In case you send me any more money, don't let it come through the Y.M.C.A. as the last time they held out \$25 on me.

Monsignor Boh, vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Montreal, has suffered a stroke paralyzing his right side. The food situation in Austria is reported as the greatest since the war began.

15¢



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Turkey sets up the claim that the entire naval and mercantile fleet of Russia in the Black Sea should be turned over to it.

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Curing Skin Troubles

These Are Always Due To Bad Blood Which Must Be Enriched and Purified.

So many people, both men and women suffer from skin troubles, such as eczema, blotches, pimples and irritations that a word of advice is necessary. It is a great mistake for those suffering from troubles of this kind to smear themselves with greasy ointments. Often they could not do anything worse, for the grease clogs the pores of the troubled skin and the condition becomes actually worse.

When there are pimples or eruptions, or an irritating or itching rash a soothing boracic solution may help to allay the irritation, but of course that does not cure the trouble. Skin complaints come from an impure condition of the blood so thoroughly purified. It is well known that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have effected the best results in many forms of skin disorders and blemishes. This is due to the fact that these pills make new, rich blood, and this new blood attacks the impurities that give rise to skin troubles and disperses them. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure skin disorders from within the system—the only sure way. Mrs. W. Ritchie, Parkview, Sask., says:—

"Two years ago I was attacked with eczema on my hands. I tried almost everything that was advised, but as the trouble was growing worse, I consulted a doctor and took his treatment for some time with no better results. By this time my hands were a mass of sores and I began to despair of finding a cure. A friend strongly advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I decided to do so. After using two boxes I could see an improvement, and I got a further supply. I used altogether eight boxes by which time every trace of the eczema had disappeared and there has not been a single symptom of the trouble since that time. I gladly recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for troubles of this kind."

It should be added that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have a beneficial effect upon the general health. They increase the appetite and energy and cure all diseases that arise from impure blood. You can get these pills through any medicine dealer or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

RETURN DECORATIONS. Kaiser's Pilot Disgusted at Murders By Submarines.

Copenhagen, June 21.—According to the Berlingske Tidende, a native of Christiania, Norway, who was for many years in the Kaiser's service when the latter was travelling in the Norwegian waters, has returned his order of decoration to the German legation at Christiania, saying that those orders are now disgusting to him on account of the murder of his brave comrades by German submarines.



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