

GERMANS' MORALE APPEARS UNSHAKEN

British "Eyewitness" in Statement Says Charge Lacks Evidence.

BOMBS MUCH USED IN TRENCH FIGHTING

Also Short Range Howitzers—Sniping Is Continuous—Germans Impress Civilians.

London, Dec. 5.—The Press Bureau today issued a report from an eyewitness at the front covering military operations during the three days from November 26 to November 29. This report is summarized as follows: The general activity is recorded along the English front, with the Germans pressing the attack in one quarter against the Indian troops, who have been extending the trenches in an endeavor to get in close quarters with the enemy. There has been some shelling of the rear of our front line south of the Lys, but this form of annoyance diminishes daily along the front. Sniping, however, is carried on almost incessantly. There seems to be little doubt that the Germans are employing civilians, either willingly or unwillingly, to dig trenches. Some civilians have been seen and shot while engaged in this work.

While it is necessary to accept the evidence of all prisoners with caution, there is a change in the views expressed by some officers captured recently which appears to be genuine. They admit the failure of the German strategy, and profess to take a gloomy view of the future. At the same time it must be confessed that as yet there is no sign that their view is that generally held by the enemy, nor has there been any definite indication of a lack of morale among the German troops.

Middle Aged Soldiers. The highways of northern France are crowded with men responding to the various mobilization orders issued by the French government. Thousands of such troops were encountered in the course of a short automobile trip. The strange procession includes a curious mixture of types. A considerable proportion of these new drafts are composed of middle aged men of good physique and likely young men from the countryside.

The change within the last few days of what may be termed the atmosphere of the battlefield has been marked. The noise of cannonading has now decreased to such an extent that for hours at a time nothing is heard but the infrequent boom of one of the heavy guns of the Allies, the occasional rattle of machine guns and the intermittent fire of snipers on either side.

So far as the use of explosives is concerned, the greatest activity is found in local attacks with hand grenades and short-range howitzers. The enemy has practically ceased his efforts to break through the line by assaults, and he is now devoting his energies to the same type of operations as he has been conducting since the beginning of the battle of the Aisne.

Subterranean life is the general rule in the neighborhood of the firing line. Even those men not actually engaged in fighting live in underground quarters. Some of these quarters, called "funk holes," are quite elaborate and comfortable, and contain many conveniences not found in the trenches.

Bombs in Common Use. Most of this fighting takes place at such close range that the guns on either side cannot be fired at the enemy's infantry without great risk of killing their own men. Hence have come to take the place of artillery, and they are being used in enormous quantities. The short range howitzers are of three types, and those used by the Germans have come to be termed the "Jack Rabbits."

EXPECT SUBMARINE ORDER American Shipbuilders Believe Congress May Provide for 15.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The probability that the United States navy will be in the market next year for a considerable number of submarines is deterring American shipbuilders from seeking contracts among belligerent nations. E. J. Powell, president of the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, told Secretary Daniels his firm did not intend to build submarines for any European power.

AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

At Unrestricted Public Sale Tomorrow (Monday) and Tuesday of This Week at 2:30 o'clock

Antique Art Objects and Utensils in Various Metals Of the Remarkable Dearden Collection

The sale will be conducted by MR. THOMAS E. KIRBY and his assistant, Mr. Otto Bernet, of the American Art Association, Managers 4 East 23d Street, Madison Sq. South.

that Congress will appropriate for more than eight submarines and possibly for fifteen has been taken into consideration by American builders. There would be no possibility of legal obstacle in these contracts.

DODGED GERMAN MINE

Nieuw Amsterdam, with 330 Aboard, Has Narrow Escape.

The steamer Nieuw Amsterdam of the Holland-America Line, which arrived at Hoboken yesterday with 330 passengers, reported a narrow escape from striking a German mine floating in the North Sea.

On November 25, when the vessel was less than six hours out of Rotterdam, which she left in the early morning, so as to pass over the mined area in daylight, the lookout sighted a mine 200 feet off the starboard bow.

A signal was given Captain Baron, who ordered Second Officer Van Erp to train one of the high-powered rifles, with which all vessels of the line are now equipped, upon the floating menace to navigation.

From the steamer's bridge Van Erp fired forty bullets through the metal casing, but was unable to strike one of the triggers to explode the mine.

Captain Baron was convinced, however, that enough holes were made in the mine to cause it to fill with water and sink.

INVOLVES KAISER IN ALLEGED DUPLICITY

Belgian Minister of State Says War Plans Existed for Years.

By C. INMAN BARNARD.

(Paris correspondent of The New York Tribune.) Paris, Dec. 5.—Paul Hymans, Belgian Minister of State, publishes to-day in "L'Opinion" a complete detailed statement and history, supported by official correspondence and documentary evidence, demonstrating, he says, as clearly as Euclid that the violation by Germany of Belgian neutrality was a calm, cold calculation, deliberately worked out by German statecraft years before the outbreak of the war.

Hymans' evidence calls forth from the public irrefutable condemnation of the duplicity of the German government and especially of the methods of the Wilhelm Platz, giving fresh force and interest to the recent publications of the British Blue Book and French Yellow Book. The statements made by the German Emperor expressing earnest protestations of friendship for Belgium at the time of the imperial visit to the exposition at Brussels in 1910 are brought under the limelight.

Hymans describes the personal seduction employed by Kaiser Wilhelm on that occasion, when he was so particularly amiable and friendly toward Mayor Max of Brussels; also how General von Emmich on the occasion of the "joyeuse entrée" of the King and Queen of the Belgians at Liege had been sent by the Emperor as a special ambassador to salute the Belgian sovereigns in the Kaiser's name.

This happened in August, 1913. Exactly a year later the same General von Emmich commanded the assault on the forts of Liege. M. Hymans' plain, straightforward historical narrative of the violation of Belgium's rights as an independent nation makes as stirring reading, arousing the same patriotic feelings as the most eloquent passages in Motley's famous history of the Dutch republic.

Germany Expected the Italian Army to Cross Switzerland

Paris, Dec. 5.—Proof that a violation of the neutrality of Switzerland was included in Germany's original plans has been found, says "Le Matin," in the shape of ordnance survey maps discovered among the papers on killed German officers.

The maps are similar to those used by Swiss officers, "Le Matin" says, and in fact all the names are in Italian and information of a special nature printed on them shows they were intended for the use of an Italian army marching across Switzerland to attack France.

U. S. NURSES RISK LIVES IN BELGRADE

Mme. Grouch Praises the Bravery of Red Cross Unit in Balkans.

(By Cable to The Tribune.) London, Dec. 5.—Mme. Slavko Grouch, whose birthplace was Chargé d'Affaires of the Serbian Legation here until more important duties called him to Nish at the commencement of the war, to-day gave a graphic description of the important part played in the Serbian Red Cross by the American hospital unit. Surgeons and nurses from the United States are the only ones who ventured into Belgrade during the Austrian bombardment. They are still there, and as far as Mme. Grouch is aware are safe, although all about them soldiers' camp buildings have been killed and buildings demolished by shells from the siege guns across the Save River. It is understood representations were made by the American Embassy at Vienna, asking that the military hospital occupied by the American Red Cross be spared, and apparently the Austrian General Staff complied with the request.

When the mission from the American Red Cross, comprising three surgeons and twelve nurses, reported themselves at Nish ten weeks ago they were at first assigned to the best hospital near Nish, but Mme. Grouch related that they clamored to be permitted to go to the front.

"I didn't suggest it to them," she added, "because of the great danger in the city. I looked anxiously at Miss Gladwin, chief of nurses. She smiled and observed calmly: 'It sounds like the Fourth of July.' I couldn't begin to tell you of the splendid work of those men and women in our battered capital. They were altogether magnificent."

KING GEORGE BACK FROM THE FRONT

London, Dec. 5.—King George has returned to France after he visited the British forces at the front. The King arrived at Buckingham Palace this evening.

MONDAY SALES

An Additional Quantity of Imported Four-panel Screens

suggesting useful and decorative holiday gifts, will be offered at the special prices of \$5.50, 6.85 & 7.90

This offering comprises an unusual assortment of really desirable Screens, all in charming decorative effects and some hand-embroidered

A Number of Upholstery Squares (24x24 inches)

Suitable for Pillow Tops and other fancy articles, will be placed on sale commencing to-morrow (Monday) at 25c., 35c., 50c. & 75c. each (Upholstery Department)

An Interesting Sale of Fancy Articles

particularly suitable for holiday gifts, will consist of a specially selected assortment of lingerie articles, pillows, etc., all marked at very unusual prices.

Handkerchief Cases of hand-embroidered lingerie, edged with Ciuny lace and lined with silk, at \$2.25

Glove or Veil Cases to match, 2.85

Shirred Circular Pillows of imported figured crepe in dainty colors and designs at \$2.50

Enameled Wicker Waste Baskets, in ivory-tone, with Dresden decoration at \$1.75

Leatherette Waste Baskets, in red, brown or green at \$1.35

Many worth-while suggestions for acceptable holiday gifts will be found in the Linen Dep't (Fourth Floor).

To-morrow (Monday) and Tuesday

A Very Unusual Sale of Decorative Linens

will be held, affording an opportunity for obtaining superior quality goods at appealing price concessions.

Table Cloths of Scotch and Flemish Linen Damask each \$2.25, 3.25 & 3.65

Napkins to match per dozen \$2.50 & 3.50

Centerpieces trimmed with hand-made French Ciuny lace each \$2.50 & 3.50

Doilies to match, each 20c. & 75c.

Madeira Hand-embroidered Luncheon Sets, comprising one 24-inch centerpiece, six plate doilies and six tumbler doilies, per set \$5.25 & 6.75

Madeira Hand-embroidered Tea Napkins, size 14x14 inches, per dozen \$5.50

B. Altman & Co.

An Extraordinary Sale of Fur Garments and Smaller Furs (the Great Fur Sale of the Season) will be held on Tuesday, December 8th,

and will present an unusual opportunity to obtain, at far below their actual values, Furs of excellent qualities and superior finish and workmanship.

Women's Fur Garments Hudson Seal Coats at \$68.00 & 150.00 Hudson Seal Coats, with skunk trimming, \$95.00, 115.00 & 190.00 Karakul Coats at 55.00 Karakul Coats, with collar of contrasting fur, at \$75.00 & 150.00

Women's Fur-lined Garments Cloth Coats (heather mixtures) lined with hamster and finished with collar of contrasting fur at \$38.00 Cloth Coats (imported mixtures) in a desirable model, lined with squirrel and finished with collar of contrasting fur at \$58.00

Fur Neckpieces and Muffs

Table with columns for NECKPIECES and MUFFS, listing items like Karakul, Beaver, White Fox, etc. with prices.

Persian Paw Sets \$7.50 & \$9.75

Also Men's Fur-lined Overcoats in Oxford and black broadcloth, lined with natural muskrat and finished with Persian lamb or Hudson seal collar, at the special prices of \$58.00 & 85.00 (Fur Department, Third Floor)

FOR TO-MORROW (MONDAY) AND TUESDAY

An Important Sale of Women's House Gowns and Negligees will comprise a generous assortment of new, distinctive models (featuring smart materials and exquisite colors), specially prepared in anticipation of the holiday season.

House Gowns of albatross, with accordion-plaited skirt and attached hand-embroidered coatee, at \$7.75 House Coats of corduroy (in full length), lined with silk, at \$9.85 Negligees of superior-quality crepe de Chine, trimmed with mouflon at \$9.50

House Gowns of crepe de Chine, with box-plaited skirt and attached coatee, the latter hand-embroidered and lace-trimmed at \$12.50 Robes of silk matalasse, amply cut, silk-lined and finished with scalloped, hand-embroidered edges at \$21.00

AN INTERESTING SELECTION OF Advance Styles for the Southern Season is now being shown. It includes Tailor-made Suits, Afternoon and Dance Dresses, Evening Gowns and Lingerie Frocks; Coats, Wraps and Hats; Riding Habits, Sports Garments, etc.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

Table listing various gift items like Women's Evening Scarfs, Silver Toilet Sets, etc. with prices.

All Charged or Paid Purchases (including heavy and bulky shipments) will be forwarded Free of Charge by mail, express or freight to any point in the United States.

MONDAY SALES

A Special Selection of Women's New, Smart Blouses at exceptional prices.

Crepe de Chine Blouses, in sand-color and pale pink at \$5.75

French Crepe Blouses, in green, tete de negre and navy blue, with overblouse of contrasting color at \$9.75

Also 100 Imported Model Blouses, originally \$21.00 to \$45.00, which will be reduced, to close out, to \$12.75 & 18.50

A Specially-priced Offering of Women's Black Silk Hose

strongly reinforced and of decidedly superior quality; really worth \$1.50 to \$2.00 per pair, at \$1.00 (6 pairs for \$5.50)

Little Children's Coats and Hats

(sizes 2 to 5 years) in the wanted materials and colors of the season, will be offered at these decided price reductions:

Little Children's Coats at \$4.85, 5.50 & 7.50

Little Children's Hats at 75c., \$1.75 & 2.25

Extensive Price Reductions have also been effected in the remaining assortments of Little Children's Imported Hats and Bonnets.

A Special Sale of Aprons

will offer an attractive variety which includes Tea Aprons as well as Aprons for maids' use; made of lawns or dotted Swisses; in small and large sizes, with or without shoulder straps, marked at the exceptionally low prices of

28c., 42c., 55c., 68c. & 85c. Unusual values will also be offered in BOUDOIR CAPS

at 95c., \$1.35, 1.65 & 1.90

MAIDS' CAPS, in a diversity of styles, will be included in this Sale at special prices.

(Department on Second Floor)

Silk Umbrellas

in styles for Men and Women, will be marked at very special prices.

Twilled Silk Umbrellas of superior quality, with handles finely trimmed with sterling silver, at \$4.75

Twilled Silk Umbrellas, with novelty handles in a number of attractive styles at \$3.50

Twilled or Taffeta Silk Umbrellas, with natural wood or mission-finish handles at \$2.00

Also Men's Imported Walking Sticks, with sterling silver band, at \$1.00

Fifth Avenue - Madison Avenue, New York Thirty-fourth Street Thirty-fifth Street