

# THE WAR 1914



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OR BOYS & GIRLS







**THE WAR, 1914**

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# THE WAR, 1914

A History and an Explanation

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

BY ELIZABETH O'NEILL



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON: T. C. & E. C. JACK  
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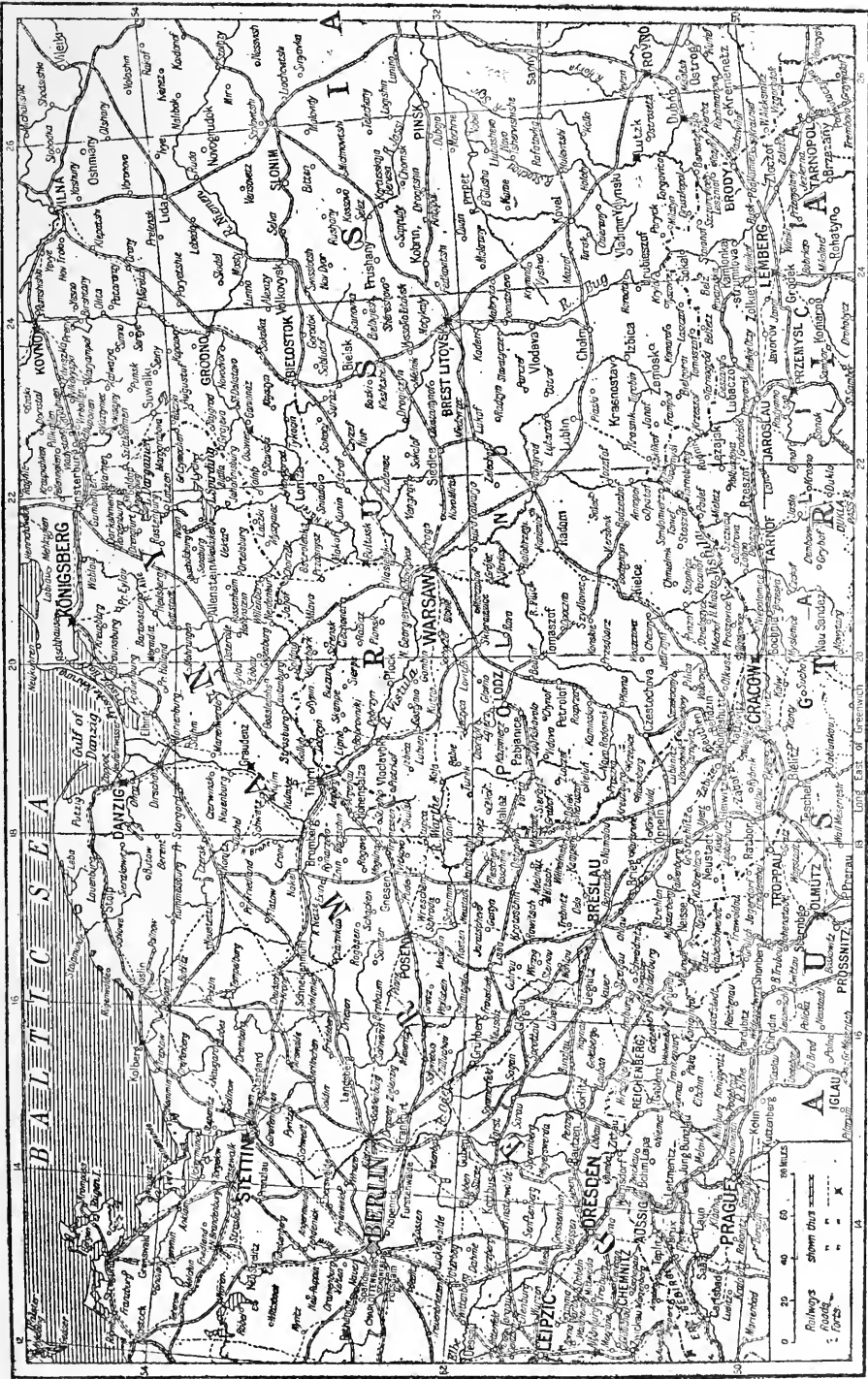
## CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. HOW THE WAR BEGAN . . . . .	I
II. HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY . . . . .	16
III. HOW BELGIUM SAVED EUROPE . . . . .	27
IV. THE MARCH OF THE GERMANS TOWARDS PARIS . . . . .	41
V. THE WAR AT SEA . . . . .	56
VI. THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE RUSSIANS . . . . .	66
VII. THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES . . . . .	77



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THE WESTERN BATTLEFIELDS



THE EASTERN BATTLEFIELDS

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# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## COLOURED PLATES

GENERAL JOFFRE, FIELD-MARSHAL SIR JOHN FRENCH, AND STAFF OFFICERS . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
<i>By Septimus Scott</i>	
THE DISPATCH—"JUST IN TIME" . . . . .	<i>Facing page</i> 16
<i>A. Chevallier T aylor</i>	
THE DEFENCE OF LIÈGE . . . . .	" " 32
<i>W. B. Wollen, R.I.</i>	
THE HIGHLANDER'S FAREWELL . . . . .	" " 64
<i>A. S. Hartrick, A.R.W.S.</i>	

## BLACK AND WHITE PLATES

MAP OF THE WESTERN BATTLEFIELDS . . . . .	vi
MAP OF THE EASTERN BATTLEFIELDS . . . . .	vii
GERMAN FIELD GUNS FIRING IN A FIERCE BATTLE . . . . .	<i>Facing page</i> 9
<i>Drawn by H. W. Koekkoek</i>	
THE GIGANTIC GERMAN SIEGE GUNS FIRING AGAINST FORTS FROM BEHIND A HILL . . . . .	" " 24
<i>Drawn by H. W. Koekkoek</i>	
HOMELESS BELGIANS FLEEING BEFORE THE GERMANS . . . . .	" " 29
THE BRITISH ARMY AT BOULOGNE . . . . .	" " 36
GERMAN SHELTER-TRENCHES AT THE BATTLE OF THE MARNE . . . . .	" " 41
<i>Drawn by R. Caton Woodville</i>	
THE ALLIES GUARDING THE CHANNEL BY SEA AND AIR . . . . .	" " 45
<i>Drawn by Norman Wilkinson</i>	
MEN OF THE FINEST CAVALRY IN THE WORLD . . . . .	" " 52
HOW THE "PATHFINDER" WAS SUNK . . . . .	" " 56
THE "EYES" OF THE SUBMARINE—THE PERISCOPE . . . . .	" " 56
<i>Drawn by H. W. Koekkoek</i>	
WHERE THE GERMANS MADE "AN OBSTINATE DEFENCE" AGAINST THEIR BRITISH PURSUERS . . . . .	" " 61
ONE OF THE BIGGEST BATTLESHIPS IN THE WORLD, H.M.S. "QUEEN ELIZABETH" . . . . .	" " 68
<i>Drawn by W. B. Freer</i>	
WHEN THE FRENCH SOLDIER IS ALWAYS AT HIS BEST— AND THE GERMAN NOT . . . . .	" " 77
<i>Drawn by Georges Scott</i>	
GERMANS SMOKED OUT OF THEIR HIDING-PLACE BY BRITISH INFANTRY . . . . .	" " 84
<i>Drawn by Frédéric de Haenen</i>	

# THE WAR, 1914

## CHAPTER I

### HOW THE WAR BEGAN

IN the beginning of the year 1914, British and American children, and children in nearly all the countries of Europe, had hardly ever thought about war. Those who were old enough to go to school had learned something about old wars and great victories which their nations had won in quite far-off times, but they did not always think them very interesting. Then, in the August of 1914, every child in Europe and America knew that a great war was actually beginning. In that war they knew that two great European nations, Germany and Austria, were fighting against nearly all the other nations of Europe. They did not, perhaps, know that the war which began in 1914 was the greatest war which had ever been since the world began. It was nearly fifty years since any great war between even two great nations had been fought. Many people said that there would never again be a war in which nearly all the nations of Europe would take part. These people thought that men and women had grown more peaceful and that nations could never hate each other as they had done in the past. But everyone knew that if a great European war did come it would be a very wonderful and terrible war indeed.

In the last fifty years since the last great European war all sorts of new things have been found out, and many of these can be used in fighting. Guns much bigger than have ever been seen in the world before have been built, and there are

all kinds of new ammunition, or the things which are shot from the guns. Then, again, there are new ways of fighting by sea, and soldiers can now fight even in the air—a thing which no one had imagined to be possible fifty years ago. And most of the great nations of Europe have much larger armies to send to the fight than they had then. For these and many other reasons the war of 1914 is the greatest war which the world has ever seen. The first thing which everyone wants to know about the war is what it is all about, and why England and France and Russia and Belgium are fighting the Germans and Austrians.

In some ways Europe is like a school, in which the different countries are the pupils. At different times two or three countries will be more friendly with each other than with the other countries. If one of two or three friends should quarrel with another country, then the special friends of each will take sides in the quarrel. Then, again, if a big country attacks a little country, another big country will surely interfere to protect the smaller, just as always happens among pupils in a school. This is what happened in this great war. (One of the chief reasons why England, France, and Russia went to war against Germany and Austria was to protect two little countries, Servia and Belgium, against these two big countries.) Servia is a little country in the east of Europe, one of the little group of nations in the Balkan Peninsula. For hundreds of years these lands belonged to the fierce Turks, who were always trying to gain more land in Europe after they took Constantinople in 1453.

The Servians, and most of the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula, belong to the great Slav race, just as the Germans belong to the Teutonic race, and the French to the Latin race, while the English are descended from a mixture of many races. The peoples of the Teutonic race and those of the Slav race have always been rather jealous of each other, and in the east of Europe the Slavic nations have had to fight hard and often, not only against Turkey, but against the great



Teutonic nations, Germany and Austria. Both these countries have Slav lands under them which they have at some time conquered, or which their rulers have won by marriage. The once great Slav country of Poland was divided up in the eighteenth century between Germany and Austria and Russia. But Russia itself is a Slav country, and the greatest of all. Though it took its share of Poland in the eighteenth century, it is now looked upon as the protector of the little Slav countries of Europe. When Austria quarrelled with Servia everyone knew that she would quarrel with Russia too.

For many years now Germany and Austria have been a little unfriendly. Everyone knew that if a European war came, Germany and Austria would be on one side, and the great Slav country of Russia on the other. There were other reasons for this, as we shall see, besides the quarrel between the Germans and the Slavs, but it was through this quarrel that the Great War of 1914 began.

The little kingdom of Servia has always been the most determined of all the states in the Balkan Peninsula to fight for its freedom. Its people, the Serbs, are, like all the Slavs, very brave and excitable, living simple lives at ordinary times, but a poetical people loving music, and easily roused to anger against those who will not let them be free. In their early days, the Slavs did not find out quickly good ways of governing themselves. They were like the Irish in this, and the history of some of the Slav nations has been very like that of Ireland. The greater number of the Serbs are peasants, and most of them earn their living by keeping pigs. They are mountaineers too, for their country is full of hills, and perhaps this too has helped to give them a special love of freedom.

The Servians fought hard and long against the Turks two hundred years ago, and in the end the Turks had to leave them almost free, though they were still under her rule. But at last in 1878 she won her freedom altogether, and became an independent country under her

brave leader Prince Milan, who became her first king. The Servians hoped that in time their country might become the head of all the Slav lands in the Balkan Peninsula. But Austria, a country which was chiefly German but ruled over Slav peoples like the Hungarians and Bohemians, would have liked to have the Balkan lands for herself. At the end of the war in which Serbia became free, there was a meeting of statesmen from all the countries of Europe, as there is at the end of every war. At that meeting Serbia was declared free, but two provinces which really belonged to her, Bosnia and Herzegovina, were given to Austria to protect. This was a great disappointment to Serbia. She wanted these provinces to help her to become the centre of the Slav Empire which she wished to make. The people in the two provinces were perhaps the most ignorant and poor of all the peoples of Europe. It is said that they used the same kind of instruments for their ploughing and harvesting as those which the old Greeks used in the time of the Trojan War.

The peasants were almost slaves, and long before their harvests were gathered in they had to pay the nobles who were their masters as much gold as half the harvest would be worth. It was the masters who were to guess the price, and most of them said a much higher price than the harvest was really worth. When Austria began to govern Bosnia and Herzegovina she put an end to all this. The people were made much more comfortable, and taught many useful things, but they felt that they were not free. The Austrians spied upon the people, and even sent men to visit their houses to see what was going on. The people of the two provinces hated the Austrians, and at last they asked that the great countries of Europe should send statesmen to a great meeting which should judge whether they were being treated properly. Austria immediately said that now the two provinces should be really subject to her instead of only under her protection. This was in the year 1908. The Bosnians were very

unhappy, and the Servians and Russians were terribly angry. From that time there were always people in Servia, and especially in Belgrade, its capital, plotting and planning, and making ready for a time when the Slavs should triumph over the Teutons. The Austrians knew that the Servians are not only brave men, but that they are splendid soldiers. In the last few years they have fought and won great victories, first against Turkey and then against Bulgaria. And so, though Servia is a little country, the Austrians knew that it would not be an easy country to conquer. They knew, too, that in any war with the Teutonic nations the great Slav country of Russia would probably come to the help of her little sister nation. But at last a bitter quarrel broke out between Austria and Servia, and the people of Europe were surprised to find that Austria was determined to go to war with Servia.

The cause of the war was a very sad and terrible thing. It was the murder of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the nephew of the old Austrian Emperor Francis Joseph, by a Bosnian student, named Gavrilo Prinzep. The Archduke and his wife were visiting Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, and driving through the streets in a motor-car when they were shot. Prinzep was a mere boy still attending a high school. He threw a bomb which missed fire before he shot, and another bomb had already been thrown which had also missed. It was known afterwards that the boy Prinzep was only one of many plotters scattered through Sarajevo that day. They had resolved that the Archduke should die, and if one failed, others were to try until the thing was done. The Archduke would have been next Emperor of Austria, and though he was a good and kind man, the Bosnians hated him as their future ruler. His wife was killed when she flung herself on her husband to protect him.

The Austrians were terribly angry against Bosnia and still more against Servia, for it was soon known that it was the Servians who had planned the crime. All the European countries felt that Austria had a right to punish Servia in

some way, but they were soon greatly surprised when they saw the bitter way in which the Austrians treated the Servians. It seemed as though they were determined to go to war with them, no matter what the Servians might do to make up for the wrong which had been done. All the nations were interested in the "ultimatum" which Austria was to give to Servia. An ultimatum means a statement of certain things which must be done, or the nation which gives it will go to war with the other. Austria gave Servia just two days to say "Yes" or "No" to her ultimatum. The conditions she laid down were very hard, and the other countries of Europe could not believe that the proud Servians would say "Yes" to them. By them Austria was able to interfere with nearly everything the Servians did, with what they were to be allowed to read in their newspapers, and even with the way the little Servian children were to be taught in their schools. Worse than all, Austria was to send Austrians to take part in judgments in the courts of justice. Everyone who heard these conditions could not help seeing that if Servia accepted them she would not really be any longer a free nation. No one thought that she would accept them, and everyone was afraid that there would be war.

England did all she could to try and keep peace. Her Foreign Minister, or the statesman who has to arrange what England will say or do to other countries, was Sir Edward Grey, a very wise and fine statesman. He asked Germany, Russia, and France to join him in trying to keep peace in Europe. Russia and France were very willing, but the German ambassador, or statesman representing Germany in this country, was never able to say that Germany would join in any way to keep the peace. The German Government had already said that the ultimatum was "equitable and moderate," that is, quite fair and gentle. When Sir Edward Grey asked that the German, French, and Italian ambassadors in London should meet and talk about ways of keeping peace, the German Government answered that they did not

like this way, but they would never suggest any other way.

But it seemed that after all peace would be kept, for Servia did after all say "Yes" to nearly all the conditions Austria was trying to force upon her, only she asked for more explanation about the conditions on which Austrians were to take part in cases in the courts of justice. Austria refused to give any explanation, and declared war on Servia. Then everybody knew what many had guessed before, that Austria had made up her mind to go to war with Servia whatever might happen. Indeed the chief statesman in the Austrian Government said that the people of Austria were so angry against the Servians that the Government was forced to declare war.

But many people felt sure that Germany also was anxious for war, and that Austria had been so hard with Servia because Germany had persuaded her to join her in a war with Russia and France. When Sir Edward Grey had asked Germany what ways she would suggest for keeping the peace, as she did not like those he had offered, the German Government had given a very strange answer. It was, in fact, no answer at all, but a very curious question. Germany asked whether England would keep out of a war between Germany and France if Germany left Holland alone, and took nothing from France but her colonies.

This seems a very curious answer to a plain question, but it meant more than it seemed to say. Germany showed that she was willing to leave Holland alone if she went to war with France, but she said nothing about Belgium, the little country to the north of France. This meant a great deal, for to march through Belgium is the easiest way for a German army to get into France.

But why did Germany think that she would be going to war with France, and what had this to do with the quarrel between Austria and the little Slav kingdom of Servia? One reason why war between Germany and France was

probable was that there was a close friendship between Russia and France.

We have seen how Europe is in some ways like a school, and how the countries make special friendships among themselves. Before the war the great countries of Europe were divided in this way into two groups. There was what was known as the *Triple Alliance*, which meant the friendship between the three countries, Germany, Austria, and Italy. And there was the *Triple Entente*, or the friendship between England, France, and Russia. Countries which join together in the special friendships make certain promises to each other. If another country attacks one of them in an unjust way, the friendly countries must help that one. In any great war in Europe it was almost certain that the countries of the *Entente* would be fighting against those of the *Alliance*. So when the quarrel over Servia broke out between Austria and Russia, everyone knew that Germany would join Austria, and that France would fight on the side of Russia. But why then did not Italy, the third country of the *Alliance*, join in and help her friends? The reason is that the countries in the *Triple Alliance* had not promised to help each other in a war of aggression, that is, a war which is forced on by one country without any proper reason. Austria forced war upon Servia, and when the other nations were drawn into the war most people felt that Germany had brought on a war of aggression.

For many years it had been known in Europe that Germany would be glad of a war. The lands which make up the German Empire were only joined together under one ruler in the year 1870, at the end of a great war between Prussia and France which neither country has ever forgotten. It was Prussia, with its great statesman Bismarck, which joined the other parts of Germany to itself, and the King of Prussia became the Emperor of Germany. It was chiefly the victory which Prussia had won over France which made the other German lands willing to join with Prussia. So Germany is really the youngest of the nations of Europe. Her people





DRAWN BY H. W. KNECHT

GERMAN FIELD GUNS FIRING IN A FIERCE BATTLE

The soldiers have thrown branches of trees over and in front of the guns to hide them from the enemy



are a strong and brave race, and though there are great differences between the Germans in the South, who are almost like the Italians in some ways, and the Germans of the North, still the Germans everywhere have been very proud of their new Germany. Since the beginning of the Empire, and especially in the last twenty-five years, Germany has been progressing wonderfully. Her trade has been very great, and things "made in Germany" are being used in every country in the world. It has often been said, indeed, that something should be done to make people in England use things made in England. The things which the Germans make are often cheaper, but they are not so well made and will not last so long as things made in England. But the growth of trade has made Germany rich and, at the same time, there has been a great educational movement in that country, and Germany has some of the greatest writers and men of science in the world.

But though Germany has been rich and happy in a way, she has not been free. In most of the countries of Europe the people now govern themselves in their parliaments, but in Germany the parliament has very little power, and the Emperor a great deal. Until the great statesman Bismarck died, Germany was very well content with what she had won. She had become one of the chief countries in Europe, but this did not satisfy the young Emperor who began to rule in 1898. This was the man who has been the most talked of in all the world since the war of 1914 began—the Kaiser William II. William II has never been content with Germany as she is. He remembered angrily that while Germany was still only a group of lands, and not a nation, in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, Englishmen and Frenchmen and Spaniards had been sailing the seas and winning far-off lands for their countries, so that all these lands had colonies, and the British Empire especially is spread far and wide over the world. William II was not content that Germany had become a great European

power ; he wished her to be a world power. He wanted her, as his friends said, to have " a place in the sun." He and his governments have always been jealous of England because of her great Empire. They have envied her her trade and her ships and her proud position as mistress of the seas. And because England has so much which Germany has not, there has grown up in Germany a real hatred of England. Even German professors at the universities are full of this feeling, and the greatest writer of history in modern Germany calmly wrote long before the war, that after Germany had " settled her accounts " with Russia and France, she would have to settle the last and greatest account of all with Great Britain.

The reason of the German jealousy of England is plain ; she was jealous of England's great Empire over the seas, and she was determined to try some day to win some of the English colonies for herself. But first she knew she must fight and conquer Russia and France. Germany lies right between these two countries, Russia on the east and France on the west. In the last years of the nineteenth century Russia had taken very little notice of what was going on in Europe. She stretches across into Asia, and was at that time much more interested in what was going on in the East. She tried to win land in the East, and Japan, a small nation like England, did not wish her to have it, and in the war of 1904 little Japan won great victories over the great armies of Russia.

After this Russia began to take more interest in European affairs. She began to see that Germany wished to make herself strong by making Russia weak. For a long time there had been much trouble in Turkey, and people guessed that, sooner or later, the Turks would have to give up the lands she had conquered long ago and ruled so long in Europe. Russia now saw that Germany had tried to keep her busy in the East while she got what she could from Turkey. The Kaiser once said that the bigger the Turkish army was made

## HOW THE WAR BEGAN 11

the better for him and his allies. Especially Germany was anxious to win the land that Turkey must lose. She tried hard to get the port of Salonika for Austria. This was one way in which the Teutonic power in Europe was to be made stronger, and in the end conquer the other peoples. It was chiefly for this reason that Germany and Russia began to hate each other.

Between Germany and France there had been no other feeling but hatred since the war of 1870. This war was made by Bismarck without any real reason for a quarrel with France, because he knew that a great victory would make the people of the German lands more ready to join in one empire with Prussia. The French did not know how strong the German army was, and in any case they were not ready. Before the war was over the Germans had taken Paris, and when peace was at last made they took for themselves the two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine which lay between the two countries, but which had belonged to France for years. France has never forgiven the Germans for this war, and she has always meant to win Alsace and Lorraine back some day. Every French man, woman, and child knew what was meant by *la revanche*—the revenge which France should take some day on the Germans.

Germany then was, for different reasons, anxious to fight some day against each of the three countries of the *Triple Entente*. She was dreadfully angry when the *Entente* was made first between England and France, and then between England and Russia. The Kaiser had done his best to break up the friendship between these countries, but he had never succeeded. Meanwhile the German hatred of England has grown. When officers of the German army met at dinners or parties they were always ready to drink a strange toast "Am tag"—"To the day." Everyone knew that the day they meant was the day when Germany should attack her great enemy England. These stories used to be told in England, but many people would not believe them. They

would not believe them even when Germany began to build up a big navy. She began to do this in the year 1900, at a time when England was fighting with the Boers in South Africa. In that war the Germans showed plainly that they would have liked the Boers to win. Whenever a nation resolves to build big ships, a bill must be passed through its parliament to allow this, as even one warship costs a great deal of money. It has been noticed that each Navy Bill passed through the German Parliament has been passed at a time when the German people have been feeling particularly bitter against England. Yet Germany has always pretended to have some good reason for building more and more big ships. There were people in England who believed these reasons to be true, but the wiser people knew that they were not, and these people said that we must build ships faster than Germany could do. The Government had made up its mind for this, and ships were being built as fast as possible when war between England and Germany came in so sudden a way in 1914.

England had done her best to keep peace in Europe. When she knew that war had come, she did not immediately join in. But when she saw that Germany was acting unjustly towards the other countries of the *Triple Entente*, she declared war. The reason for this was that the Germans had made up their minds to march their armies into France by the easiest way, that is, through Belgium. Now Belgium is what is known as a *neutral* country, that is, it is a country which cannot take part in any war. The only time when a neutral country may fight is when some other country attacks it or attempts to pass through it in war. Then it is obliged to defend its neutrality. This is what happened with Belgium. The statesmen of Europe have for many years seen how important it is to keep Holland and Belgium independent and free from the interference of other countries. If any of the great countries of Europe were allowed to take Holland or Belgium for themselves, this would upset

what is known as the *Balance of Power* in Europe. By this is meant the preventing of any country becoming so strong that the other countries would not be safe against it. It would be especially bad for England if any big country were to get Holland or Belgium for themselves. England would not feel safe against any country which did take these lands with their great rivers and splendid ports so near our own land. Nearly all the greatest battles of Europe have been fought in Holland and Belgium, and for this reason Belgium has been called the "cockpit of Europe." If only the armies of other countries could be kept from marching into Holland and Belgium, then there would be a much better chance of peace being kept.

In 1831, when the countries of Europe were settling down after the troubles of the wars of Napoleon, Belgium had been made a free and neutral kingdom. All the countries of Europe agreed to this, and signed a treaty promising to "respect" the neutrality of the little kingdom. Again eight years later another treaty was signed, and for over seventy years Belgium has remained free and neutral.

When it was known that there was actually going to be war between Germany and France, the English Government asked both countries to promise not to invade Belgium. It also asked Belgium to promise to defend her own neutrality, that is, to fight against any army which invaded her lands. France gave the promise on the same day that she was asked, the next day Belgium did the same, but Germany made no answer at all. On the 4th August, Great Britain heard that German troops had already marched into Belgium. Great Britain sent an ultimatum to Germany saying that unless she would promise to stop her soldiers England would declare war. The Great War was to be fought with England, France, and Russia, the countries of the *Entente*, Belgium and Servia on one side, and Germany and Austria on the other. France rejoiced greatly when she knew that England was to join in. - England had been above all things

anxious for peace, but she would not have peace without honour, and Germany's readiness to break her solemn promises was an insult to every nation in Europe. One of her statesmen spoke with contempt of the solemn treaty signed by all the countries of Europe as "a scrap of paper." This kind of behaviour showed how the Germans were prepared to treat all promises. They seemed mad with pride, and not only the Kaiser and his Government, but the German people in general. When it was known in Germany that England had joined in the war against her, the old hatred for England broke out afresh. In Berlin the windows of the British Embassy (the house where the British ambassador lived) were smashed by an angry crowd. The German people believed that England had waited until Germany was already at war with Russia and France. The German Government had not meant to fight all three countries at once. She had thought that England was too full of troubles at home to be able to go to war.

At that time for many months the militant suffragists, or people who were prepared to fight for votes for women, had been giving the Government much trouble. Then, too, it seemed that the Irish were about to break into civil war on the question of Home Rule, or whether Ireland should have its own parliaments. There was a great deal of anger and trouble in Great Britain over these things, and the Germans, who had spies all over the land, thought that England would have all she could do to keep things quiet at home. The war has shown how greatly she was mistaken, for Englishmen and Irishmen have forgotten their quarrels and sent their bravest and best men to fight for the country which they all love.

In Russia, too, and in France, there were troubles at the moment, but there, too, these were forgotten, and all joined to fight against the country which would not let Europe be at peace.

The war of 1914 was different from other wars in this,

that no one but the Germans can say that Germany was in the right. The Allies, as all the world knows, were fighting for justice and right against a country and an emperor who seemed almost mad with pride. The soldiers of the Allies went out to battle not as soldiers have often gone to war, because it is the business to be done, but rather like the knights of old, full of anger against an enemy who was fighting unjustly, and full, too, of a determination to fight their best for justice and right. This is one more reason which has made the Great War of 1914 so wonderful a thing.

## CHAPTER II

### HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY

WE have seen that the War of 1914 was greater than any war the world had ever known for many reasons, and chiefly because of the enormous size of the armies fighting in it. At the beginning of the war there were fifteen millions of soldiers ready to fight. In every country of Europe except Great Britain, every young man, when he is twenty or twenty-one years old, may be called upon, if he is strong enough, to be trained for two or three years as a soldier. In countries where the population is small like France, every strong man becomes a soldier. In Germany, which has an immense and crowded population, one out of every three is taken. After their two or three years of service is over, these men can always be called upon to fight for their country. The younger ones will be called out first and then the older, according to the number of soldiers required. It is said that only a month or two after the War of 1914 began, Germany was already calling out quite elderly men and enlisting young boys.

Yet Germany of all the countries had the largest army actually ready for fighting. In a few days after war was declared she was able to send out two and a half millions of soldiers. These men were all thoroughly trained, and there were two and a half millions more who had had part of a soldier's training and could be sent out if there was need. Then the Germans counted that there were still another two and a half millions who could, in time, be got ready to fight. So the Germans may be said to have had more than seven million soldiers. France had an army ready to fight of about two million soldiers, and she could in time call out two millions more. Russia's "first line"





THE DISPATCH OF SEVEN-TIME A CAVALIER TAYLOR



## HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY 17

army, as the army which can be sent out as soon as war is declared is called, was not quite so large as Germany's, but she could have five and a half millions of men ready in a very short time; then, with her huge population, there were millions and millions of men who could be called upon in the end to fight. Russia is stronger in this way than any of the other European countries, but it must be remembered that an army has to have other things besides men. It must have the weapons with which the men have to fight. We do not know how many soldiers Russia could send out with weapons ready for war, but this is certain: that almost as fast as men were killed or wounded their place could be taken by other men. This is not true of any other army, for no other country has such an immense number of people as Russia.

It is very likely that the Germans would have weapons for about five million soldiers, but she could not replace these as fast as the Russians could replace their men. Austria had a first line army of only a little over a million men, and altogether had only about three million soldiers. So these two countries together had to fight altogether against a greater number of men, even if we count only the armies of Russia and France.

This is one reason why it was important for Germany to fight as fast and furiously as possible. If she could have won at all, it would have had to be by a quick victory. If the war went on for a long time, she would in the end have few men left, while Russia at least could always bring fresh armies to the fight. The Servian army at the beginning of the war could be counted at about 400,000. They had fewer men through the two wars they had fought in the last few years, but they were splendid soldiers, and, like the Russians, had all the advantage of knowing what war is really like.

The Belgian Army was just being rearranged when the war broke out. It was a small army, for there were in the whole of Belgium only as many people as there are in London, but

they, too, showed themselves to be fine soldiers and brave men. Belgium must have had about 350,000 soldiers altogether.

Great Britain has never had conscription, and since the days of Napoleon she has never had a very big army. She has a splendid navy to guard her shores, and has not felt that a big army is necessary as well, though there have been many people who wished that the country was better prepared for war. There were about 300,000 soldiers in England when the war broke out, and early in the war about 100,000 were sent to France to help our allies. They were as fine soldiers as the world has ever seen, as we shall see when we come to speak of the battles in which they fought.

Besides the ordinary soldiers Great Britain had 250,000 Territorials, men who became soldiers especially to defend Great Britain if the ordinary soldiers were needed for war in another country. But many Territorials offered to fight abroad. Then England has a fine army of native soldiers in India, and 70,000 of these were actually brought over from India early in the war, and joined the British force in France to do their part to defend the British Empire. The Indian princes and the Indian people were eager to give money and men to Great Britain, and as in India the British are ruling over millions of men of quite another race and colour, and the fact that they love Great Britain so much, shows how successful the British government has been. Yet the Germans have said that Britain could not govern her colonies, and they thought that, if war came, India perhaps would rebel against her. In the other parts of the Empire, like Canada and Australia, most of the people are descended from British settlers. They, too, are full of loyalty, and have sent soldiers over who are anxious to fight for the mother country. There are not many Red Indians left in Canada, but sixty of them joined the Canadian troops who were going to England to fight for the Empire.

In speaking of the men who fought for the Allies, we must not forget the work done by the Boy Scouts. The English

## HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY 19

Boy Scouts did splendid work at home in carrying messages which were too private to trust to telegrams or ordinary messengers. Some were sent over to get in the harvest in France when the men had gone off to the war. The Belgian Boy Scouts, who are provided with pistols, had a better chance to get near the fighting line. One Belgian Boy Scout has become famous. At the beginning of the war he was set to hunt for German spies near Liège, and captured two German engineers, who were dressed up as priests. After this the boy, Joseph Louis Leyssen, was allowed to help in the very fighting line, and more than once rode with important messages right through the German lines.

If the war were to go on for a very long time, and there was need of more men still, it is certain that many men from our Empire would come to fight for Britain. In this way England is like Russia, that there is an immense number of people in her Empire, and there will always be soldiers to fight for her. But of course it takes a long time and much trouble to bring soldiers over the seas in ships. Still, it would be well worth while to bring the men over, and this is one great advantage which England has over Germany.

In times of peace there are not so many soldiers actually with their regiments as there are in times of war. Many men who will have to fight when war comes are at home doing ordinary work, but every one of these knows just where he has to go to join his regiment in case of war. When war is declared, or when a country sees that there is likely to be war, an order is given for the army to "mobilize"—that is, to get ready for war—and in two or three days every soldier who is wanted will be with his regiment. All these men have to be drilled again, but it does not take many days to make them good soldiers once more. Meanwhile all sorts of things are being got ready. There are always many more horses required in war than in peace. Even regiments of cavalry or horse soldiers, where every man has his horse, will require more to replace animals which may be shot.

The infantry or foot soldiers, and the artillery or gunners, too, require horses to draw wagons containing food and shot and powder, and many other things which the soldiers must have with them. It was a common sight at the beginning of this war to see soldiers taking horses from tradesmen's carts. Any man might be called upon to sell his horse.

But in this war for the first time motor-cars were used a great deal for carrying things. Many even of the buses and trams were taken, and people who saw them wrote from Belgium and France saying how curious it seemed to see the English names, which the soldiers knew so well, on cars which were carrying things from one part of the battle-ground to another. Motor engines were used to carry guns, and it was of course a great advantage to have these strong motors instead of horses. There are, too, motor-cars which are made very strong and which carry guns ready to shoot. They were very useful, especially in rushing forward to see what arrangements the enemy had made and where their guns and soldiers were. For it must be remembered that in battles as they are fought now, when so much depends on the guns and the guns are so large and can shoot so far, the armies which are fighting against each other are sometimes miles away from each other. In the old days soldiers used to march to battle with their swords and battle-axes, or with their bows and arrows, and the two armies would dash against each other and fight until the biggest or the bravest won. Then, later, guns were made, and some of the battles were not fought with the armies so close together, but at least at the beginning of a battle the soldiers would shoot at the enemy from a great distance, and only at the end of the battle dash against each other to fight with sword and bayonet.

The guns which are used to-day are bigger and can shoot farther than any which were used fifty years ago. For this reason the battles of the War of 1914 were fought for the most part with several miles between the armies. Often

## HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY 21

the soldiers did not see their enemies at all, but shot so that the shot or shell, whichever is used for their guns, might go a certain distance. The officer knows generally just how far the enemy is away. He may find this out through scouts or patrols, one or a few soldiers sent on ahead to spy on the enemy. But in the War of 1914 a great deal of the scouting work was done by airships and aeroplanes. The English especially did fine work in flying during the war. The ship or aeroplane often flew right over the enemy's army and then came back to tell just how their army was arranged, and whether the guns were doing good work and so on. The airships look like great fishes in the sky, and the aeroplanes more like birds. One kind of aeroplane used by the Germans is called a "Taube," which means "a dove." Most airships are very like balloons, and they are easily brought down if a shot strikes them.

The English airmen in the war showed themselves much cleverer than the Germans in managing their aeroplanes. Many German aeroplanes were destroyed in the early part of the war. This was partly through actual war in the air, for many of both airships and aeroplanes carried guns, and partly through shots from guns below. These are special guns invented to shoot at aircraft, as the airship and aeroplanes are called. The Germans shot at many of the English and French aeroplanes, but generally missed fire.

One of the finest deeds done in the war of 1914 was when an English airship flew right over to the sheds at Düsseldorf, where many Zeppelins (as the German airships are called, after Count Zeppelin, who invented them) were being built. The English aeroplane flew quite low, dropped a bomb on the shed, and then flew away. It was known afterwards that one Zeppelin had been completely destroyed.

The Zeppelins are much finer airships than those of any other country, and they are much better than aeroplanes in some ways. They are kept up by gas, like balloons, but cannot be blown in and out like balloons. They are great

stiff machines, like huge cigars, with a lattice-work of aluminium. Inside this are many balloons, so that one shot striking it is not by any means sure to bring a Zeppelin down. The Zeppelins can stay up in the air for a very much longer time than the aeroplanes, as they need never come down for more petrol, as the aeroplanes must. They can carry seven or eight men, while the aeroplanes can carry only one or two. Then, besides the men and their food, a Zeppelin can carry a ton of explosives, while an aeroplane cannot carry more than a hundred pounds. The Zeppelins already early in the war did a great deal of destruction with their bombs and explosives. The Zeppelins, like the great warships, cost a great deal of money to build, and the Germans hoped great things from them when the fight against England should come.

One of the things which seemed most horrible in the war was that the Germans dropped bombs right into the middle of peaceful towns and killed women and children, as well as men who had nothing to do with the fighting. In Paris little children were killed in this way on their way to church, and in Warsaw, the chief town of Russian Poland, seventeen women peacefully talking in the market-place were killed in this way and forty others wounded. It is against the rules of war to kill non-combatants or people who are not taking part in the fighting, but it is quite probable that the German airmen were aiming at barracks or such places where soldiers are, but had not yet learned to aim correctly. In any case the dropping of bombs from airships in this way is a very cruel and horrible thing.

London was well guarded against this from the beginning of the war. The shops and streets were darkened, and a stranger seeing London on the autumn nights of 1914 might almost have imagined that he had gone back at least a hundred years, before lighting by gas, much less by electricity, was known. But he would be surprised every few minutes at a flash of light sweeping through the sky and disappearing again



## HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY 23

—the searchlights, which flashed all night to search the sky for any enemy's airship which might dare to fly over London.

As we have seen, the British aeroplanes did their best work in scouting on the battlefields while the soldiers were firing from the trenches. Most of the battles in the war were fought in trenches. These are deep ditches in which the soldiers lie forward when they are shooting, or sit when they are resting. The trenches are built up in such a way that the men can shoot as well as possible, and yet are protected as much as possible from the enemy's shot and shell. The trenches are often miles long, and are dug by the soldiers as soon as it is decided where a battle is to take place. Often they are roofed in, with only openings through which to shoot, so that they are almost like houses or caves. But of course in wet weather they lie inches deep in rain, and the soldiers suffered much from this in the fighting of the autumn of 1914. In the early part of the war the battles were chiefly fought from the trenches, and the men had been for days and days in the same trench. When firing is going on they have to lie as low as possible, for fear one of the enemy should pick them out and shoot straight at them. Sometimes the shooting will be almost continuous for days, and then there will be only occasional firing.

Perhaps the guns which really kill and wound most men in the trenches are the howitzers. These do not shoot directly at the trenches, but fire at an angle into the air. Different sorts of ammunition are used. One very terrible kind is called shrapnel. The shell bursts without touching anything at a certain time after leaving the gun, and a whole shower of bullets drops from above on to the men below. Besides the shrapnel, the howitzers fire great shells which explode only when they touch something. Some of these are so powerful that when one strikes the soil it makes a hole big enough to hold an ordinary motor-car. It is thought that the Germans have used this kind of shell to frighten the enemy, as the noise is so terrible, and yet on the whole

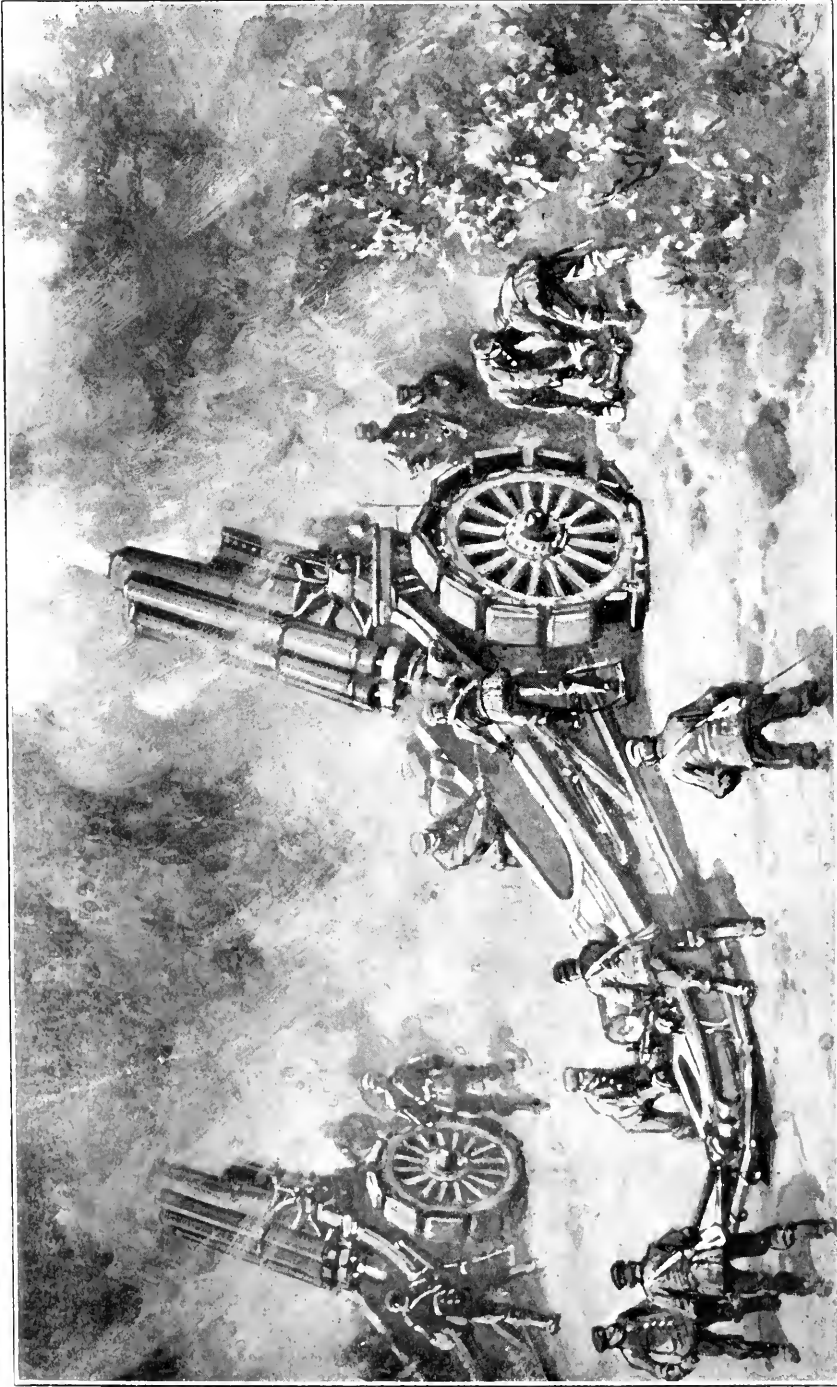
they do not do any more harm than other kinds of fire. However, they have not managed to frighten the "Tommies," as the English soldiers are called in fun, for the "Tommies" speak disrespectfully of these shells as "Black Marias."

The ordinary field gun, which shoots straight at the trenches, does very little harm when the sand is well piled up in mounds in front of the trench. But one very terrible kind of gun, and one which tries the soldiers very much, is the machine gun, which is loaded and fired by machinery, and can be kept going as fast as a man can turn a handle. The fact that there is hardly an interval between two shots is very trying to the nerves of tired men.

The heaviest guns can only be set up on specially prepared places, with foundations made of concrete. The Germans used these guns in the battles in France, and people thought that their spies, who were everywhere in times of peace, got these places ready long before war was declared.

Besides the guns used in battle there are the great siege guns which are used to batter down fortresses, and one of which requires sometimes seven or eight motor engines to carry its parts from place to place.

In the fighting from the trenches only guns can be used, but always after a certain time, generally when one side is becoming weaker, the order is given to charge the enemy. The artillery, or men who fight only with guns, cannot take part in the charge, but the infantry or foot soldiers who have been fighting in the trenches, and others who have been kept behind, now fix bayonets—that is, fix a long spike, which they carry behind them, to the end of their guns—and dash forward. The cavalry, or horse soldiers, may take part in the charge, galloping forward with their long sabres or swords drawn. But the "charge" is the least part of a battle in these days. The chief part of the battle is the firing from the trenches, and the charge comes as a rule when the guns have already almost won the day. Shooting from the big guns can still go on while the infantry or cavalry, or



Drawn by H. W. Koenig.

THE GIGANTIC GERMAN SIEGE GUNS FIRING AGAINST FORTS FROM BEHIND A HILL WHICH CANNOT BE SEEN FROM THEIR POSITION



## HOW WARS ARE FOUGHT TO-DAY 25

both, are going forward to the charge, as the shot from their own side passes over their heads first, but when they get near the enemy's line the shooting from their own side must stop for fear their own men are shot. It has been pointed out that the dull uniforms which the soldiers in most armies wear to-day are a disadvantage sometimes, as when soldiers have gone some distance from their own armies they cannot, of course, be seen by their own side. Sometimes the firing has to stop sooner because of this, as it is impossible to see whether the men have got within reach of the fire.

But on the whole it is considered good for the soldiers to be clothed in dull colours which do not show plainly against the grey or brown earth. This is especially necessary in the trenches, where every officer tries to hide his men as much as possible. It is a great advantage if the position of the trenches themselves can be hidden. Sometimes an officer will get his men, if there is time, to pile up long mounds of earth some distance from the real trenches to deceive the enemy. It is a great advantage if the enemy can be deceived and is made to waste his shot on these "dummy" trenches.

The "khaki" or light brown uniforms which the English soldiers wear is splendid for this. The grey-green uniforms of the Germans and Russians are just as good in this way. Many of the French soldiers, however, wear brilliant red trousers which look very fine, but are quite easily seen at a great distance by the enemy. Even the Indian soldiers who have fought in the war for England have been given suits of khaki in place of the more brightly-coloured uniforms which many of them wear in times of peace. It has, of course, been much more difficult to hide the position of the soldiers from the enemy since scouting from the air has been possible.

It must, of course, be remembered that there are generally bodies of men behind those actually fighting. These are known as the "reserves," and generally it is the officers of the reserves who have the task of reporting to the com-

mander-in-chief how the battle is going in their particular part of the line. The commander-in-chief depends on these reports for making alterations in different parts of his line. When he is not in the field, he is generally seated with his staff before a large map of the country where the battles are being fought. The map is covered over with little flags showing the position of different armies. These are moved about as the various messages come in.

Now that we have seen in a general way how battles are fought to-day, it will be easier to understand the story of the terrific battles which were fought in the Great War of 1914.

## CHAPTER III

### HOW BELGIUM SAVED EUROPE

WHEN the war began, Germany had two great nations to fight against, Russia on the east and France on the west. She had to make up her mind how she was going to fight them. It was no use attacking both countries at once, as even the German army, when divided into two, could not have attacked either country very strongly. She could, of course, have drawn up her armies and merely defended herself against the attacks of the enemy on east and west, for it takes fewer men to defend than to attack. But Germany would have hated to do this. Her officers have been taught for years that the best way to make war is to attack the enemy with all one's strength.

The question was, which should they attack first, Russia or France? Neither of these countries was really ready, and everyone knew that the Russian army especially takes a long time to mobilize. Then Austria could help much more in an attack on Russia than she could in an attack on France. For this and other reasons many people have thought that it would have been better for Germany to attack Russia first. But she did not choose this way. Germany remembered how easily the German armies had marched to Paris in 1870 and taken it. They meant to do the same again. Then, with France conquered and the other nations thoroughly afraid of the conqueror, the German armies could march against Russia. The turn of England, the enemy Germany hated worse than all, should come last.

But why then did not the German armies march into France from the east, where Germany joins France? The reason

was that since 1870 the French have built on this border a great line of fortresses. You will see where they are if you look at the map. They run from Verdun to Toul and from Epinal to Belfort. These fortresses are enormously strong. It would have taken the Germans weeks and weeks to capture them, even if they could have done it at all. Then again, even if the German armies had got at last past the fortresses, the country in which they would have found themselves is very hilly and rough, and the immense German armies could not have spread themselves out over it as they could in the plains of Northern France. Germany's one chance of winning in the end was a quick victory over France, and this is why, in spite of her solemn promises, she resolved to march through Belgium. The solemn treaty which other nations thought of as a sacred thing was to the Kaiser only "a scrap of paper." The German Chancellor made a speech in the German Parliament in which he said it was "necessary" to march through Belgium, and "necessity knows no law"; that anyone threatened as Germany was threatened could have only one thought—"how he is to hack his way through."

So Germany got ready to "hack her way through" Belgium. She had thought of it as a fairly easy task. Of course Belgium had strongly fortified towns too; her fortresses were among the strongest in the world, but the Germans knew that the Belgian army was not large enough to spare many men to defend the fortresses. Then, too, the Germans could not believe that the Belgians were ready to fight and die to defend their neutrality. No one could have blamed Belgium if she had merely fought one battle to show that she was unwilling, and then given in. Even a brave people might well have done this, but the Belgians chose a way which has shown them to be a nation of heroes. They fought so well that for weeks the German armies were kept out of France. It meant terrible suffering to the noble Belgian people, for the Germans treated men, women, and children with the most







Photo by Newspaper Illustrations

HOMELESS BELGIANS FLEEFING BEFORE THE GERMANS

horrible cruelty, but they prevented Germany from having her quick victory over France, and so saved Europe from all the terrible things which would have happened if this mad nation, with its mad Emperor, had been allowed to conquer the other nations.

All the while the Belgians were keeping the Germans back the French armies were getting ready for war, and the British "Expeditionary Force," the first 100,000 men sent by Great Britain to the war, were being got ready too and landed in France.

It was on the morning of August 4, the day on which England declared war on Germany, that the German army first marched into Belgium. It was not of course the whole army, but two corps, that is, 80,000 soldiers altogether, who set out "to hack their way through" to France. The way the German troops had to march was along the valley of the river Meuse, and the first fortified town they were to attack was the busy town of Liége, famous for the making of guns, and one of the great manufacturing towns of Belgium. But before they reached Liége the German armies had to pass through the little village of Visé. They expected to take it easily on the way, and were surprised to find that its people meant to resist. The people of this part of Belgium, the hilly part to the east of the Meuse, belong to a different race from the Flemings to the west. They are called Walloons, and are very like the French in character, excitable and easily roused to anger, hating injustice, and determined to resist it. The Flemings are more like the Germans in some ways, more patient and less excitable, though of course they have been equally determined to resist the Germans in the war.

When the Germans arrived near Visé, a small number of Belgian horse-soldiers went forward to try to drive them back, but they were too few. But still they kept the enemy back by blowing up the bridge by which they were to cross the river. All soldiers must be ready to make their own bridges in time of war, and the German soldiers immediately

began to make a bridge of boats. But, unfortunately for them, the shot from the guns of two of the forts of Liège could reach to Visé, and bridge after bridge which the Germans tried to make were destroyed by this fire. But a little village like Visé could not resist long, and before the day was over it was taken. Then it was seen how the Germans meant to treat the Belgians who resisted. Every person who was found with a gun was immediately shot, although it is allowed by the law of nations that any person may defend his town or village when it is attacked by an invader. When a place is actually taken it is against the rules for anyone not a soldier to use weapons against the enemy. The one excuse given for the horrible cruelty of the Germans in Belgium has been that "non-combatants" shot at the soldiers.

This is true—men have shot and women even have thrown boiling water on the invaders, but there is nothing to show that the Belgians have broken the rules of warfare. The truth is that the Germans have been so greatly surprised and angered by the brave fight which the Belgians have made that orders have been given to show no mercy. Another reason for this, too, is that the conquest of Belgium had to be done in a great hurry, and the Germans could not spare really a great number of soldiers to remain there. It was necessary then, from their point of view, to spread terror among the people and to do by cruelty what they could not do by just war. It was not long before the news of the burning towns and villages of Belgium was to spread through the world. The first place to be burned to the ground was this pretty little village of Visé.

From Visé the German soldiers went forward to attack Liège. Liège is what is called a "ring fortress." Right round the town stands a ring of forts. Each of these is complete in itself, with guns and soldiers to defend it. The forts are about four and a half miles from the centre of the town, and two and a half miles from one another. The Germans could not get into Liège without passing between two

of the forts, from which, of course, the great guns would be firing all the time. By this time three army corps, or 120,000 men, could be called forward to attack the forts, but at first only one corps was sent forward. The Germans knew that there were not as many men to defend the forts as were really needed, and they expected that they would easily rush in between the forts and take the town. But if there were not many soldiers at Liège, each man was ready to do the work of ten, and the ordinary men of the town had helped. When the Germans began their attack at seven o'clock in the evening of August 4, they found the spaces between the forts splendidly defended. Trenches had been dug and mounds flung up. Men were in the trenches firing, and where there were no men, great webs of barbed wire had been drawn across to bar the way. These barbed-wire entanglements, which stop the advance and madden the horses in a cavalry charge, were very much used in the war.

One fort which stands inland with many woods and trees on it was chosen for the attack, as the trees gave some protection to the German soldiers. When the officers saw how well the place was defended, they ordered their men to advance in close ranks and in great numbers. The great searchlights from the forts were flashed upon them, and the guns from the forts and the trenches blazed furiously as they advanced. They fell, killed and wounded, in heaps, and then the soldiers with fixed bayonets dashed from the trenches and drove the Germans back. The Germans had not brought any really big guns to the attack, but did what they could against the forts with their ordinary field guns. For two more days the struggle went on. The Germans had now 120,000 men attacking Liège, and as they knew there were not enough Belgians to defend all the spaces between the forts, they now attacked several forts at once. Still the Belgians resisted fiercely, and the Germans, always advancing with rank close upon rank, still fell in heaps around the forts. At last, by force of numbers, and also by reason of the courage of the

German soldiers, for they still advanced bravely though so many of their comrades lay dead in their path, many Germans got past the forts into the town. Then the brave commander of the forts, General Leman, told the Germans that he would give up the town but the forts would still hold out. The Germans could now pass between the forts into the city, but the men in the forts would still defend them.

On that evening the German general asked for an armistice, that is, a short time during which both sides should stop shooting, to give him a chance to bury his dead soldiers. But General Leman felt that he could not trust the Germans to play fair, and so said "No."

The Germans knew that they must take the Liège forts before they could really advance further. If they were left they would of course shoot upon the soldiers and the trains as they passed on the railroad at Liège. Every army must of course keep its "line of communications," that is, the way by which its men and supplies come, safe. So now great siege guns of a new kind, bigger than any the Germans had had before, and which they had kept secret, were brought, carried in pieces by motor engines, and set up to attack the forts. For more than a week they battered the forts, shooting especially at the turrets which covered the guns. At last, on August 21, most of the forts had fallen. General Leman was just going to be carried from a fort which was battered to pieces to another still standing, when he was captured by the Germans. He had been crushed by part of the fallen building, and had fainted before he was captured. Before this, although both his legs were badly crushed, he had gone round the forts, as he did every day, to see that all was in order. This time he did the work seated in a motor-car. In the forts which had fallen he was careful to see that everything which could in any way help the enemy, such as maps or plans or ammunition, was destroyed. When he came to his senses he insisted that the Germans should write down that he had been taken only when he was unconscious. He wrote later to



THE DEFENCE OF LIEGE. W. B. WOLLEN, R.I.





## HOW BELGIUM SAVED EUROPE 33

King Albert, the brave Belgian king, saying : " I surrendered neither the fortress nor the forts. It was not given to me to die." General Leman is one of Belgium's heroes to-day, and, like a true hero, he would rather have died than surrender.

The German general, von Emmich, who had commanded the attack on the forts, shot himself. He had begun the attack so badly, and wasted so many men, that he felt he had failed. But the people who were really at fault were the Kaiser and his advisers, who could not believe that little Belgium was really going to resist the German invasion.

Liège would have held out even longer if it had had enough soldiers to defend it. It had suffered, too, from the fact that new and heavier guns ordered for the forts from the great German gunmakers, Krupps, had not been delivered in time. The Germans had had every advantage on their side, but still Liège had done what many people would have thought impossible. They had kept the Germans back in the race towards Paris, which would probably have given them victory over France and Russia, and left them free to fight England. France showed her gratitude to the people of Liège when on August 7 she gave their city the " Legion of Honour." One of the things which has been most talked about in connection with the war is whether the ring fortresses are a good way of defence or not. The Liège forts had not really a good chance of proving their strength, as they were not fully defended. But it is clearly proved that if turrets are still used to protect the guns in forts like these they will have to be made much stronger, to resist the fire from such heavy guns as the Germans used to attack the Liège forts. Some people think that it would be better to fix the guns in quite a different way, so that they should be quite hidden from the enemy, and could be twisted about to aim in different directions as the guns in the turrets cannot.

But the most important lesson which the defence of Liège had taught the world was that the German soldiers were not

better than any others, as the Germans themselves believed, and other people were inclined to think. This was a great advantage, for it is very important in war to keep up the spirits of the soldiers.

The next strongly-fortified place which the Germans had to attack on their way up the valley of the Meuse was Namur, another "ring-fortress" of the same kind as Liége. Even before Liége fell the attack on Namur had begun, and before then too bands of German cavalry had begun to spread westward over Belgium. These bands of horsemen were not a real invading army. The real army could not yet advance, because the forts at Liége could still shoot on the railway by which their food must pass. Even the cavalry were very short of food, and this shows that the heads of the German army had not believed that Liége would resist so long, as otherwise they would have made some other arrangement about food. It was these horsemen, known by the name now so much hated of the "Uhlans," who were given the work of striking terror into the hearts of the Belgian people. Before many days the countries of Europe were horrified at the tale of the sufferings of the Belgians.

The Belgian army did not attempt at this time to meet the Germans in battle. Whenever they got a chance of fighting bands of German cavalry they did so, and many deeds of daring were done. But the heads of the Belgian Government saw that it was best to make the army draw back as the Germans advanced, so as to keep it together to fight the Germans who were left when the great army had gone south into France. But scattered Belgian regiments, hardly ever of the "first line" army, but chiefly "reservists," men who had been doing the ordinary work of an ordinary working man, did splendid work against the enemy. The roads everywhere were barricaded, barrels being piled up beside bushes and barbed wire drawn across paths close to the earth. Behind these simple fortifications the Belgian soldiers waited for the Uhlans, and many of these were

killed or taken prisoners. The Belgians themselves destroyed bridges and blocked up tunnels to keep the enemy back. There was, too, some sharp fighting, and the Belgian cavalry especially fought with the greatest bravery against much larger numbers than themselves.

On 12th August, 2500 German infantry were sent out from Tongres to attack Diest. To reach the town they had to cross one of two bridges over two little rivers. Both bridges were immediately defended by the Belgians, who raised barricades and dug trenches. The Germans had machine guns and artillery with them, but the Belgians were prepared in the same way. The Belgian cavalry tried to rush against the German guns, but the ground was too rough. The German cavalry in their turn charged the Belgian guns and fell in heaps. They were no less brave than the Belgians. The battle of Haelen, as it was afterwards called, lasted for hours, but at sunset the Germans had to own that they were beaten and draw off.

Again at Eghezee, a little town ten miles north of Namur, a few Belgians surprised several German regiments of cavalry. They took many prisoners, and the rest of the Germans ran away, thinking there were many more Belgians than there were.

But in spite of these brave deeds the Belgian towns and villages were for the most part left undefended, except by men who were not soldiers. Many of the brave peasants took up guns to protect their homes, as they had a perfect right to do. But they were punished unmercifully for this. Sometimes all the men of a village, those who had fought and those who had not, were shot before the eyes of their families. Often if only one man resisted a whole village would be burned. Women, girls, and young children were treated in the most horrible way, and many parents saw their daughters and even their little children killed by the half-mad soldiers. Soon the roads of Belgium were crowded with "refugees," people who had fled from their burning villages, often carrying curious parcels containing all of their possessions they could snatch

from the flames. Not only the peasants were thus burned out of their houses, but often fairly rich people found themselves homeless, and without a penny. Sometimes little children and old people died from weariness and hunger. In some places the people did not wait for the Germans to come, but fled when they heard they were coming. The Kaiser had long ago told his soldiers to go forth like the Huns, the strange savage people whose attacks used to terrify the peoples of Europe more than a thousand years ago. No Huns could have behaved more savagely than the Germans did in Belgium. The name will stick to them, and the peoples of Europe will not be happy until the modern Huns have been conquered as the nations conquered the ancient Huns ten hundred years ago.

The modern Huns showed just as little respect for the beautiful buildings and churches of Belgium as the old Huns did for the early Christian churches. The lands which are now called Belgium were dotted over in the Middle Ages with wealthy little towns. It was the pride and pleasure of the townspeople to adorn their towns with fine churches, town halls, libraries, and other buildings. Belgium was full of these treasures of Gothic architecture. Many of them have been completely destroyed, and others terribly damaged. The Germans seem to have taken pleasure in mere destruction, which could not really help them in the war at all.

One of the most beautiful churches almost destroyed was that of the little town of Dinant. Dinant was a very beautiful little town indeed, with its quaint houses stretching up the cliffs on both sides of the Meuse. The town is eighteen miles south of Namur, and almost on the borders of France and Belgium. In fact it is so near that when it was going to be attacked French soldiers crossed over into Belgium to help to defend the town. One reason why the defence of Dinant was so important was that if it was taken Namur would be quite cut off from help, as the bridge over the Meuse at Huy, the nearest place to Namur to the north, had already



THE BRITISH ARMY AT BOULOGNE

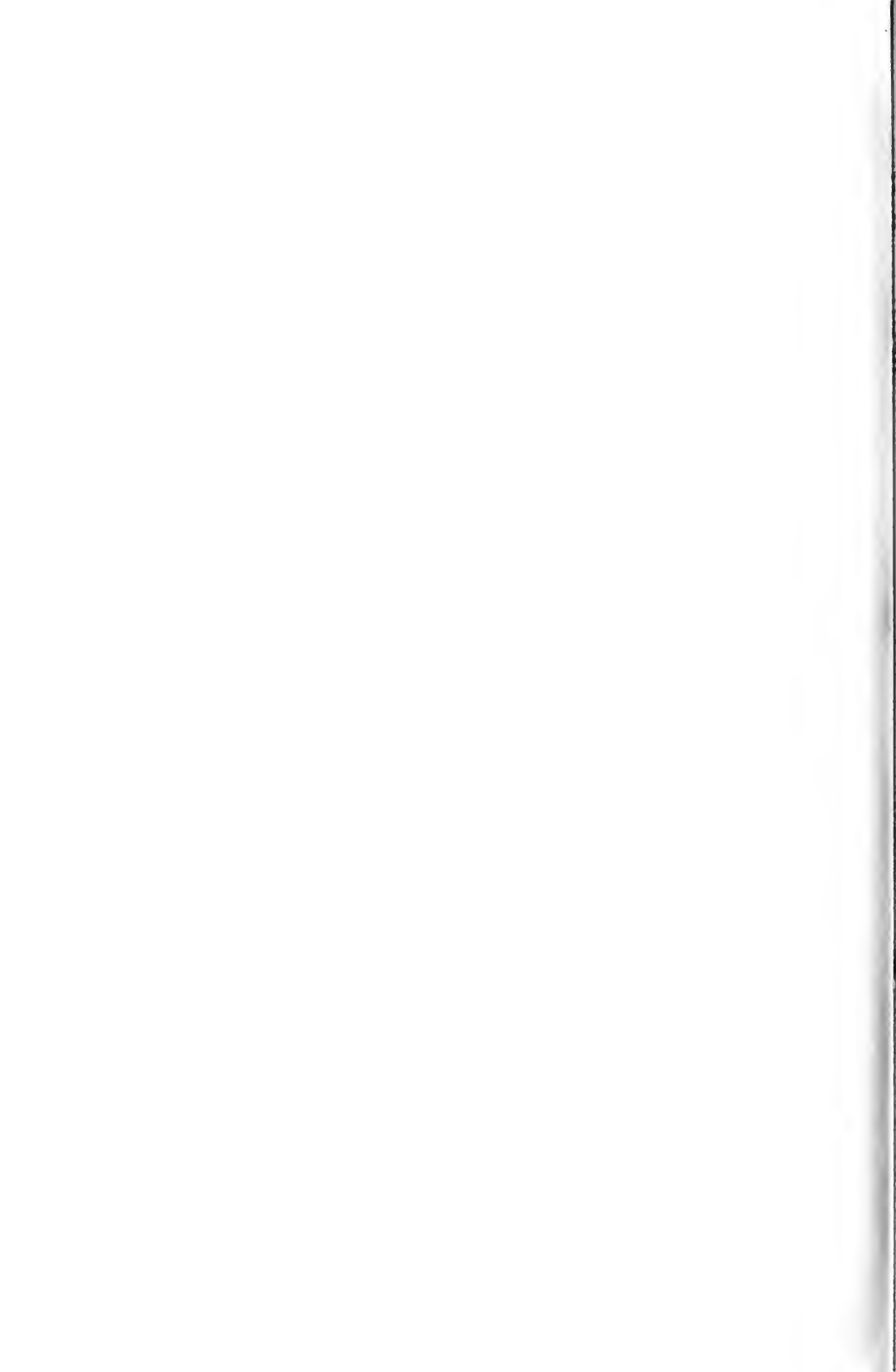
A bridge in pieces which can be easily fastened together being carried forward



THE BRITISH ARMY AT BOULOGNE

Horses being lowered from a ship

Photos by London News Agency



been taken by the Germans. On August 15 there was a fierce battle in the very streets of the town. The Germans had greater numbers, and at last drove the French soldiers from the old citadel at the top of the cliff. Just below the top edge of the cliff stood the beautiful church of Notre Dame de Dinant, which a French writer has called "one of the purest flowers in the garden of early Gothic."

The bridge, too, which crossed the Meuse at Dinant was one of the most beautiful in Belgium. A steep flight of steps led from the citadel to the bridge, and many French soldiers were shot as they came down these after leaving the citadel. But later in the day more French troops arrived with machine guns. The Germans from the citadel, remembering how the French soldiers had been shot in going down the steps, tried to get round the cliff by another way, and take the bridge with a rush. Some did get across in spite of the constant fire of the deadly machine guns, but the French soldiers charged these with the bayonet and every man was killed. Before evening the French had taken the citadel again, and the French cavalry were chasing the Germans to the south.

But it was not many days before the French were ordered to retreat to the left bank of the river Meuse, for the time was now arriving when the armies of the French and their allies were to fall back for a time before the Germans. Dinant was now left undefended, and the Germans took a terrible revenge on the beautiful city and its people. Suddenly one night an armoured motor-car rolled up one of the chief streets of the town, and the men in it without warning, and without anything having been done against them by the people of Dinant, began firing at the houses. A woman and her child were killed as they lay in bed. A man and his wife who opened the door of their house to see what was the matter were killed as they stood on their doorstep. The next day house after house was broken open and the people murdered. Sixty workmen who hid in a drain were found and every one of them was shot, though not one of them had a gun. Forty

men who hid in the cellars of a brewery were shot in the same way. Two hundred men and boys, some of them only twelve years old, were driven into the market-place and shot with machine guns. Then the Germans set fire to the town. The church was almost destroyed, and very few houses remained when all was finished. Many more people who had hidden in their cellars were burned to death.

It was no wonder that the Belgians asked, "When will the French and English come?"

On August 14 it was known that the French were at last joined on to the Belgian army. Everyone thought that the first great battle of the war would be fought near Brussels, and near to Waterloo, the great battlefield where Napoleon lost his last battle. But it was soon known that the French line could not be made long enough to reach so far north. The line of the allied armies, as the armies of the *Entente* were called during the war, stretched along the Meuse as far south as Verdun and Belfort. If the line had to be made long enough to reach Brussels it would have had to be too thin in parts, and this would have allowed the Germans to "pierce" it, which would have meant a German victory.

Brussels then had to be left open to the German invader. On August 17 King Albert and his government left Brussels and went to Antwerp, the great port on the mouth of the river Scheldt, and one of the strongest fortresses in Europe. Even then the people did not know that the Allies would not be able to defend the beautiful Belgian capital. But on the next day two trains full of refugees arrived from Tirlemont, one of the little towns on the road to Brussels, which had suffered so terribly from the German attacks. The people of Brussels now knew that their town must be taken, and the way in which they behaved, patiently but proudly, has been admired by everybody. Their burgo-master or mayor, Monsieur Adolph Max, is another of the heroes of the war. By his wise behaviour he kept the people of Brussels safe, and yet kept, too, his own dignity and the



honour of his city. He made a public proclamation in the city telling the people to remain calm. He told them that none could be forced to give information to help the enemy, or to act as guides to them, and that no one must on any account do so. The people were asked to report any act of violence or injustice to the burgomaster, but told not themselves to use weapons or to join in any quarrels. The burgomaster begged the people to trust in him and he would not betray them. "Long live Belgium, free and independent. Long live Brussels." So proudly and bravely the proclamation ended.

Some of the people of Brussels fled to join the great throngs of refugees who were now crowding into France and Holland and over the seas to England, but most remained and behaved as their burgomaster had advised them. Early in the morning of August 20 the burgomaster drove out to meet the advancing Germans and to surrender the city. The United States ambassador was present at the meeting, and informed the German commander that America would protect the city. So Brussels was surrendered quietly, and, probably much against the will of the Germans, no atrocities took place there.

The taking of Brussels could not really help the Germans much in the war, but it gave them the chance of making a great show of success. It was soon known that the German soldiers would march right through the city to their camp. They did so with all the show they could, but had less pleasure in their procession because there was hardly anybody to look at it. The people stayed indoors. Doors were shut and blinds were drawn. It might have been a city of the dead but for the prancing German soldiers. The order was given and the show finished with the soldiers marching with the "goose-step," which is meant to make them look proud and magnificent, but really makes them pompous and ridiculous.

One unjust thing the Germans did to Brussels. Monsieur Max had saved the city from fire and murder, but it was ordered to pay a fine of £8,000,000. Where no offence has been given there cannot with justice be a punishment like

this, and such a demand had never been made in war before. But by this time people were prepared to hear that the Germans were breaking the rules of war.

For years German writers had been talking of German "culture." Clever university professors had said that the German civilization was the only one worth having, and that it was the duty of Germany to conquer other nations and give them this civilization. Since the story of the wrongs done to Belgium has spread through the world people have laughed—when they have not wept—at the proofs Germany has given of the "culture" of which she has boasted so much. The only consoling fact in the fate of Belgium is that the heroism of her people was not wasted. Already when the Germans entered Brussels a fortnight of their precious time had been wasted, and the chance of Germany winning in the end must have seemed less even to the Kaiser and his War Lords.





GERMAN SHELTER-TRENCHES AT THE BATTLE OF THE MARNE

They are hidden by bushes in front

Drawn by R. Caton Woodville

## CHAPTER IV

### THE MARCH OF THE GERMANS TOWARDS PARIS

WHEN the Germans entered Brussels a fortnight after they first attacked Belgium, that little country had been almost completely overrun by the German troops, and now the great army, which had been kept back until the work of preparation was over, marched in prepared to "hack its way through" to Paris. Liège had fallen, but the great fortress of Namur had yet to be taken. The Germans could not cross the river Sambre, which lay across their way to Paris, until this was done. Namur was, too, on the direct railway line from Liège, and must be taken to keep the German line of communications, which meant supplies of food and ammunition, safe.

The line of the allied armies stretched by this time all along the frontier. They were drawn up to bar the way of a line of six German armies which was marching from six different points towards Paris. One army was to attack France from Lorraine, one of the two dearly-loved provinces which the Germans had taken from her in 1870. This army was to try to get into France at Epinal, through a gap in the strong line of French fortresses. The next army to the north was to march into France from Luxemburg.

The Duchy of Luxemburg is a tiny country with only half a million people altogether, but it is free and independent under its own Duchess. Its neutrality was guaranteed in the same way as the neutrality of Belgium, and was ignored in the same way too. On 2nd August German soldiers had invaded Luxemburg, and when the young Duchess drove out to meet

the invaders and reminded them of Luxemburg's neutrality she was merely told that it would be best for her to go home. Luxemburg only made a show of resistance, it could hardly have done anything else with so few people, and so it escaped the fate of Belgium.

The other four armies were to invade France from different points in Belgium. Their advance depended on the fall of Namur.

The first heavy shells from the German siege guns fell on Namur on the 21st of August. The whole of Europe was amazed to hear that the fortress had fallen on the 24th. Everyone had expected that Namur would hold out at least as long as Liége. It is not yet clear why Namur did fall so soon. It is known that the Germans brought up their siege guns at once, and did not think the task easy, as they had done at first at Liége. When these great guns got sufficiently near, it was hardly possible for any fortress to stand against them. The Germans managed to hide the advancing guns by sending bodies of cavalry in front of them, so that it was difficult for the men defending the fortress ever to see the exact position of the German guns. As we have seen, it is always an advantage to have the guns hidden, as the enemy do not then know just where to shoot in return. Whatever was the true cause, Namur fell in three days, and the French were the more disappointed because they had hoped to send an army eastward through the Ardennes, the beautiful hills in the south-east of Belgium. This army, if it had got through, might have been able to cut the German line in two, preventing the Northern armies from sending messages, and making arrangements with the armies farther south. But this was now impossible. The fortress of Namur was in German hands, and the town of Namur was burning like so many other of the Belgian towns before it. There was no longer any question for the moment of the allied armies in the North taking the offensive or trying to break the German line. When Namur fell, the French

## THE MARCH TOWARDS PARIS 43

line in the North had to draw back. There was no fortress like Namur between that and Paris, and with the great German armies pressing forward it seemed to General Joffre, the French chief commander, that it was best to retreat, and for fourteen days this went on until the Germans were only twenty miles from Paris. But this retreat was not a rout, and certainly not a defeat. It has been called the "Great Retreat." The armies fought at every step of the way, and drew back in orderly fashion when the order came. The Germans seemed to be marching to victory, but they lost more men than the Allies, for the commanders were anxious to win Paris at any price, and never spared their men. Just as at Liège, the German soldiers were hurled at the enemy in vast numbers and very close together—"in close formation," as soldiers say—so that the shells which burst among them never hit just one man, but killed and wounded many. The story of the "Great Retreat" will never be forgotten by the people of Great Britain, for the British soldiers played a noble and heroic part in it, as both their own generals and the French have told us.

The British Expeditionary Force of about 100,000 men were all landed in France and encamped near Boulogne by 16th August, splendidly provided with all that they could need for the war. They looked what they were, an army of fine soldiers, and the French people at Boulogne and in the villages and towns through which they passed in trainloads to the front, as the place where the battles are actually being fought is called, went mad over them. Women threw flowers before them, and cut off their buttons and badges as souvenirs, while the "Tommies" enjoyed the fun of it all, but were anxious above everything to get to the front.

This fine gay spirit of the British soldiers was noticed by all who saw them during the terrible days of the war. The men in the trenches were as merry as the recruits marching to and from their drill in the London parks. They

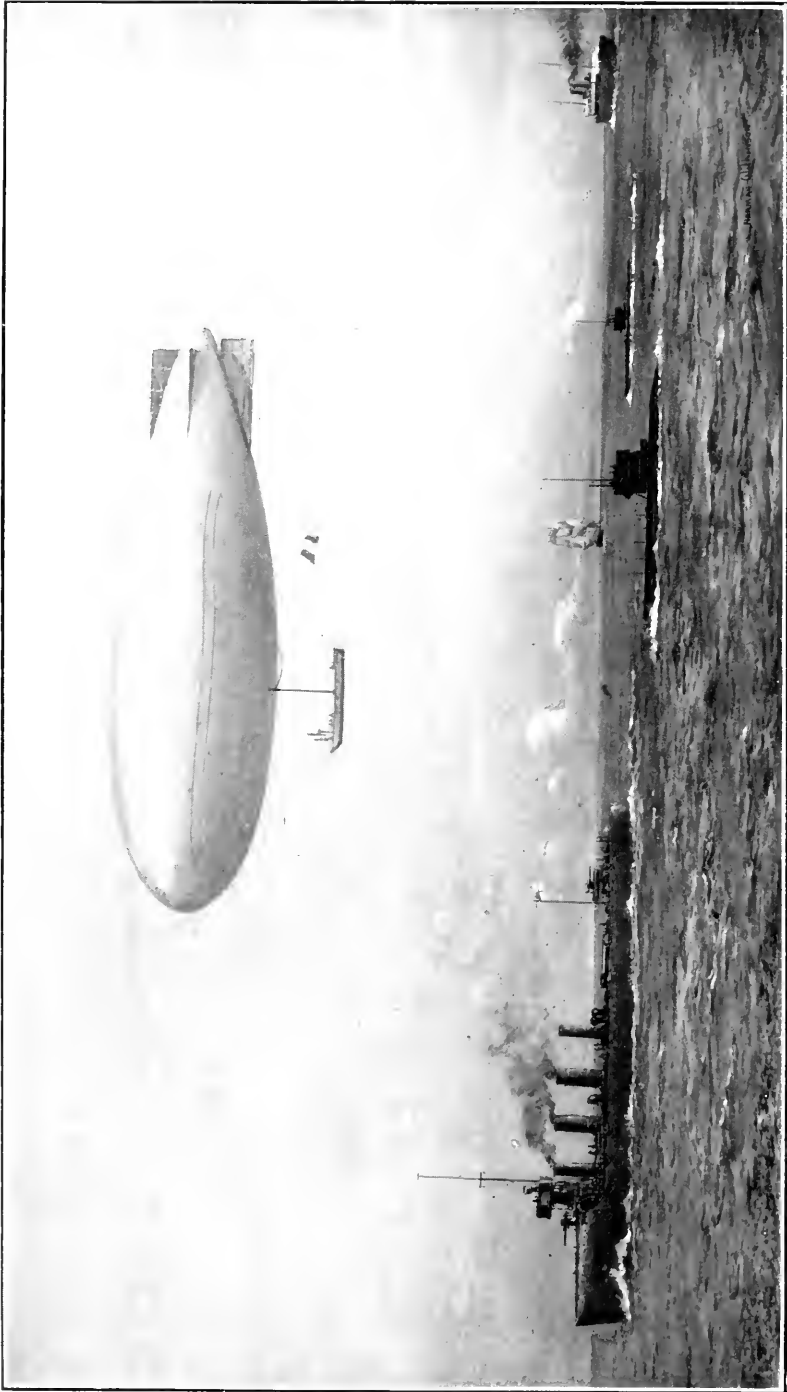
were singing the same songs too, and chiefly that which the war made famous, "It's a long way to Tipperary." The British soldier jokes and fights at the same time, and many a man smiles bravely still when he has received his death wound.

By the 22nd August the 100,000 British soldiers had taken the place appointed for them by General Joffre, who, of course, was at the head of the whole allied army. The head of the British Army was Field-Marshal Sir John French, but he took his orders from General Joffre. The British Army was placed at the very left of the line on the hills near Mons, a few miles north of the Sambre. On the 23rd of August the Germans attacked them here in great numbers, and there began one of the fiercest fights of the war. Already the French to the east, near the town of Charleroi, had been fighting desperately. The Uhlans forced their way into the town on Friday the 21st August, and on the next day German soldiers were swarming towards the town. For two days the battle was fought in the narrow streets, which were jammed with the bodies of dead soldiers of both sides. The Germans shelled the town with their guns continually, and one of the great deeds of the war was done when a band of Turcos, the splendid Arab soldiers from the French colony of Algeria—dashed against a German battery and stopped the guns by bayoneting the gunners. To dash against guns in this way means almost certain death, and only a few Turcos came back. This is but one deed of many done by men of the allied armies which remind us of the famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava.

The French fought desperately, and when they were at last driven from the town they, in their turn, turned their guns upon it, and took back parts of it. On Sunday the 23rd, the day the British began to fight at Mons, the French, at Charleroi, drove the Germans back across the Sambre. All day the two armies fought for the bridge, and first one side had it and then the other. It was at this point that







Drawn by Norman Wilkinson from a sketch by George Lynch

**THE ALLIES GUARDING THE CHANNEL BY SEA AND AIR**

A French airship passing over a British destroyer and two submarines

## THE MARCH TOWARDS PARIS 45

news came to the French at Charleroi that some of the forts at Namur had already fallen. They knew it was time to retreat.

Meanwhile the battle of Mons had been taking place. The British position was naturally very difficult, as being at the end of the line it was their work to guard the French to their right, and also to prevent the Germans getting round the end of the line or "outflanking" them, as this movement is called. Fighting began at Mons on the afternoon of Sunday, 23rd August. Sir John French knew that there were a good many Germans attacking his position. At first he was told that only one German army corps, that is, 40,000 soldiers, was opposite his front, but in the evening General Joffre sent a message that three German corps, or 120,000 soldiers, were advancing against the British part of the line and another marching from Tournai was about to attempt to get past his left. At the same time the news came that the French to the right were drawing back. This meant, of course, that the British must draw back too. Otherwise it would have been easy, in spite of their splendid fighting, to cut them off from the rest of the allied army. This is what the Germans tried to do in the next few days, and it was only through the magnificent fighting of the little British Army that they did not succeed. It is known that the Kaiser had given orders that Sir John French's "contemptible little army" should be "wiped out." Specially large numbers of soldiers were thrown against this part of the line, and the Britishers were always fighting with at least two to one against them, and often five.

On the morning of the 24th August Sir John French began to draw his men back to occupy a new position with their right on the fortified town of Maubeuge. All kinds of cunning and courage were necessary to do this without losing very many men. Sir John French sent one division, that is, half an army corps, or 20,000 men, to pretend to try to take again Binche, a place already taken by the Germans. While

the Germans were giving their attention to resisting this attack, the General was able to draw back the other corps without much loss. While this was being done, cavalry were sent forward to harass the enemy and "cover" the retirement. At one time a general commanding a brigade, that is, two or three regiments of cavalry, thought he saw a good chance of attacking the flank of the German infantry, which seemed to be unprotected. But about half a mile from the enemy the brigade dashed against one of the barbed wire fences, which do such terrible damage to cavalry. The brigade had to retreat and many men were shot.

By evening the retreat had been made, and General French's army had Maubeuge on its right. The British Army was now beyond the Belgian frontier and fighting in France. The French to the right were still retiring, and the Germans were trying hard to outflank the British. If General French had remained at Maubeuge the men of the left of his army would probably have been driven back to the fortress, and the whole army would have been shut up and surrounded there. So General French saw that it was best to retire still; and the next day, the 25th August, his men, weary though they were with two days' hard fighting, still had to draw back, fighting all the time against an army many times as large as theirs. By the 25th another division of his army, which General French had kept in reserve, had been ordered up to help the retreat, and was at Le Cateau, a town a few miles south-west of Maubeuge. All during the 25th the retreat went on, and General French would have liked to join up his line with the division at Le Cateau. But his men were tired out and could march no farther, and the march was stopped for the night. But the enemy would not let the men rest, and the 4th Guards Brigade, in the town of Landrecies, was attacked by a whole German army corps, at the most 8000 men against 40,000. They fought with the greatest bravery and killed about a thousand Germans. Farther to the right the 1st Division of the British was also attacked by great numbers,

## THE MARCH TOWARDS PARIS 47

and only the cleverness and courage of their general, Sir Douglas Haig, saved them from being captured. Two French reserve divisions came up from the right in time to help them to retire.

General French had sent many anxious messages to these before they came at last. The working together of the French and British parts of the line does not seem to have been well managed during these few days. It seemed hardly right that other reserves had not been brought up to help the English, but General Joffre had not expected such tremendous German armies to be thrown against this part of his line, and the French armies to the left had a hard task themselves in making their retreat. At one position near Tournai 700 soldiers were attacked by a body of 5000 German cavalry. For hours they fought, waiting for help which never came. One officer was seen shooting with a revolver in each hand and sheltering behind a gun. When at last the Britishers drew off, they left heaps of German dead behind them, but there were only 300 of themselves left to tell the tale.

By the morning of the 26th August the British troops had retired as far as a line from Le Cateau to Cambrai. Again on this morning they were attacked fiercely by great numbers of Germans. The 2nd Corps on the left under General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien was especially chosen out for a desperate attack. There were at least four Germans to one Britisher. In a case like this it is almost impossible to give way without giving in altogether, and for hours General Smith-Dorrien did not dare to retire. There was a French cavalry corps not very far off, and General French sent messages to ask it to go up and help General Smith-Dorrien. But unfortunately its horses were too tired, and the British had to fight it out alone. At last, late in the afternoon, General French saw that the 2nd Corps must retire. It would lose many men, but it would have been destroyed altogether if it had not moved back. The cavalry and artillery kept the enemy back splendidly while the infantry retired.

In the report which General French made afterwards of these terrible days he could not praise the men too much. He also praised General Smith-Dorrien, saying that only an officer of rare coolness and courage could have saved the left of the British Army in the terrible position in which it found itself on the 26th August. This was the worst day of all. On the 27th and 28th the French cavalry division near, having rested its horses, was able to help. By that time the attacking Germans at this part of the line were themselves weary, and the Britishers were safely across the Somme, with the river between them and the enemy.

The tales of the bravery of the British soldiers in those terrible days would fill many books. They cannot all be told. But the story of how the Scots Greys dashed right into the German ranks, each horseman with a foot soldier of the Black Watch (a famous Highland regiment) holding on to his stirrup, cannot be left out. The sabres of the cavalry and the bayonets of the infantry did terrible work against the Germans, who were completely surprised by this uncommon way of fighting.

The story, too, of a brilliant charge by the 9th Lancers must not be forgotten. Some British cavalry had approached very near a battery of eleven guns which had been hidden by piles of hay. When they got very near the guns began to fire. The shells fell thick and fast, and the cavalry had, of course, to retreat before the terrible fire. But even when they had got back to their trenches the guns did terrible work against them, and the British guns at this point were too small and too few to do much harm in return. For hours this went on, and then at last the men of the 9th Lancers could bear it no longer. They got into their ranks and dashed right at the great German guns. It was one of those things which seem impossible, but it is a fact that these brave cavalymen reached the position, cut down the gunners, and left the guns unfit for use. In that dreadful advance they had, of course, lost many men, and they lost many more

## THE MARCH TOWARDS PARIS 49

as they fell back, for the angry Germans from other points turned their guns upon them. But they had done the deed they had set out to do, one of the most heroic actions in the history of the British Army.

General Sir Philip Chetwode, who commanded a cavalry brigade and who was specially praised by General French in his reports, wrote home: "We have been fighting without ceasing for ten days. We have had no rest, and have been fighting with odds of five to one against us. We have been through the Uhlans like brown paper. But we must have men." This letter was read at one of the big meetings which were held all over England in the early days of the war to encourage young men to become soldiers. It must be remembered that while Sir John French was leading his men to battle in France the War Secretary, the great Lord Kitchener, was looking after the army at home. He was determined to send out men to fill up the ranks as fast as soldiers fell, and of course many men had been killed and wounded, as Sir John French had himself said. This was bound to be so, with five army corps thrown straight at the British front. The great consolation is that the British killed many more soldiers than they lost themselves.

Lord Kitchener was determined to have soldiers always ready, and all over London bills were posted, on walls, in trams and buses, on the front of taxicabs, telling that Lord Kitchener wanted a million men. Recruiting went on very fast, and the people in London, and the big towns all over England, soon got used to the sight of recruits marching through the streets and drilling in every park and open place.

The British troops did not remain long on the line of the Somme. The retreat was still to go on, but from the 29th there were French troops to the left of the British, so that they were no longer on the extreme flank. The rivers Somme and the Oise were big difficulties in the way of the enemy, and there was fierce fighting to defend the passage over both.

Sir John French now changed his base, that is, the point from which he got his supplies of food and ammunition, from Havre further south to La Nazaire. These supplies, of course, came regularly from England, and it is certain that the British soldiers were supplied with every comfort that could possibly be given to them. General French was afraid that his line of communication with Havre might be cut by the armies at the right of the long German line.

By this time the German armies ought to have been weak and weary, and much smaller than when they entered France, as they had had great numbers killed and wounded. But it is certain that they sent every soldier who could be spared from Belgium to join the armies in France. In Belgium meanwhile the persecution of the people and the burning of their homes was still going on.

The Germans in France were stronger than the Allies in the number of their guns, and they had, too, many more machine guns and quick-firers and armoured motors, motor-cars sheeted over with iron or steel to protect them against shots, while they themselves carried guns. The German cavalry, too, was always to the front, and, with the help of searchlights, the Germans attacked by night as well as by day. The men of the French artillery were certainly better at shooting than the Germans, but the Germans, who had been preparing for war so long, were more ready for the fight.

The English, too, showed themselves better soldiers than the Germans. Sir John French is not a boastful man, but he wrote home: "The cavalry do as they like with the enemy until they are confronted with thrice their numbers. The German patrols simply fly before our horsemen. The German troops will not face our infantry fire, and as regards our artillery they have never been opposed by less than three or four times their numbers." Sir John French in his despatches praised, too, very much the British airmen who were helping in the battles. They would go up, he said, in any



kind of weather, and told him so correctly where the enemy were, and what they were doing, that he was immensely helped by them. In the fighting near Mons alone they destroyed five German aeroplanes by actual fighting in the air.

The allied armies did not fall back from the Somme without fierce fighting. The 5th French Army, the part of the line to the right of Sir John French's army, especially fought brilliantly. Two corps of this army went against three German corps and defeated them severely. But General Joffre was not going to attack the Germans until he had his army in a really strong position. As the whole army fell back, the Germans seemed deliberately to seek out the British troops and harass the rear guards, that is, the bodies of cavalry kept behind to hold the enemy back as much as possible while the chief part of the army retires. On the 1st September, when they were just south of Compiègne, some German cavalry caught up to the 1st Cavalry Brigade; after fierce fighting some of the British guns were taken by the enemy, but the men, with the help of the Guards Brigade, who came to their assistance, fought desperately until they got back their own guns and ten German guns besides. It should be said for the Germans that they were seen helping the British wounded after this fight.

So the retreat went on until the river Marne was reached and crossed. General French had been asked by General Joffre to blow up the bridges over the river when he had got his own men across. This was done, and the British troops then kept up a constant fire against the Germans, who were trying to make their own bridges across the river. This was exciting work, but again the Britishers were told to fall back, which they did, to a line twelve miles south of the Marne, and on the 5th September the Germans were crossing the river.

By this time five of the German armies were many miles within the French frontier—the sixth, from Lorraine, was occupied in holding Alsace and Lorraine.

At the beginning of the war, the chief thing which the

French thought of was that the moment for *La revanche* ("the great revenge") had come. Alsace and Lorraine were going to be won back for France. At the very beginning of the war General Joffre had led an army into Alsace, taken Altkirch easily, and the great fortified city of Mulhouse, the most important in Alsace, after a fierce fight. The people of France were wild with joy at the news, and the people of Alsace, who had waited nearly fifty years for their deliverance, were full of joy. The old men who remembered 1870 embraced the French soldiers, and women laughed and wept with joy.

General Joffre published a greeting to the people of the lost province: "Children of Alsace! After forty-four years of cruel waiting, French soldiers tread once more your noble soil. They are the first to take part in the great work of revenge. Imagine the noble pride which inspires them. To achieve this they have sacrificed their lives, so all France is behind them, and within the folds of their standards are written the magic words, Justice and Liberty. Long live Alsace! Long live France!" But after all the French did not keep Alsace long. After a day Mulhouse was retaken by the Germans, but the French took several passes through the Vosges Mountains, and some important towns in Lorraine. But when the general retreat of the allied armies was ordered, the army in the lost provinces had to fall back too. The dream of so many years had to be given up for the moment. The 6th German Army marched into Alsace and Lorraine, and the people were very cruelly treated because of the welcome they had given the French.

The other five German armies formed a line from Verdun to a point twenty miles north of Paris. The French Government had gone for safety to Bordeaux on the 3rd September. Paris, which was the gayest city in Europe before the war broke out, was sad indeed in these days. Many shops were shut for want of men to serve in them. Indeed there were few men to be seen at all, so many had gone to the war. The



Photo by Central News

MEN OF THE FINEST CAVALRY IN THE WORLD  
A Russian regiment of Cossacks on the march



women were left behind, full of anxiety about the men who had gone, and the children who were left, not knowing what might happen if Paris should be taken. Then there was the dismal darkness in the evening with cafés shut, and the streets dimly lighted, while the great searchlights swept through the sky. Of course, Paris is an immensely strong fortress, and even if the Germans had reached the gates, it would still have been a hard task to take it.

The German right was now only twenty miles from the gates, for this part of the army under General von Kluck, perhaps the best of all the German generals, had come on more quickly than the others. But all were well advanced. The beautiful and important city of Reims was taken on the 5th September. But after all the German armies had not done what they had meant to do. By this time the Allies should have been outflanked—General von Kluck had tried hard to do this on the Allies' left—and surrounded by "a ring of steel." Instead of this the line of the Allies had not been broken. It faced the enemy along the immense front of 100 miles and more, quite fresh and strong. It had lost fewer men than the Germans, for the officers had not wasted their men as the German officers had done, and it was in a position to add more men to the army. From this time the Allies were to have many advantages over the Germans. Paris was not to be taken after all. It was the turn of the Germans to retreat.

On Saturday the 5th September General Joffre told General French that he was now going to take the offensive. The Allies were no longer to retreat, but to attack. On the next day a great battle commenced between the two lines stretched right across France. By this time the Germans saw that they themselves might be outflanked on the southwest, and began to retreat. During the next few days the French armies to the right and left of the British had much harder fighting than the British themselves. The 5th French Army, to the right of the British, especially killed and wounded

many Germans in pushing them back to the river Petit Morin. At Montceaux, a town on the way, there was very fierce fighting indeed, but the French took it at last "at the point of the bayonet." It is in bayonet charges that the French foot soldier is at his best.

On the next day the British, too, had hard fighting at the river. The Germans, as they retreated, left strong "rear guards" of infantry and guns on the north bank to keep the enemy back. The British lost many men in attacking these, but they got across at last and captured several machine guns and many prisoners. More than two hundred Germans lay dead on the ground. Later the same day the Germans at this point attacked the British in their turn, but they were driven back, and again many prisoners and guns were taken. The next day more guns and prisoners were taken.

On the 9th September the British were back at the Marne again. It was now their turn to force their way across the river, but they themselves had destroyed the bridges and had to make their own. Two of the British corps got across fairly easily, but the third corps at La Ferté struggled all day to build a bridge across the river, while a large body of Germans on the other bank continually destroyed it. But at last, when it was dark, the corps got safely across. Many hundreds of German prisoners were taken and eight machine guns. The retreat went on rapidly day after day. General von Kluck was anxious to get back to the river Aisne as soon as possible. This was the nearest place at which he could make a good stand again. The retreat went on all along the line. The Germans, like the Allies in the great retreat, fought fierce rearguard battles. But the retreat was much more hurried than that of the Allies had been, and great numbers of prisoners were taken. On one day the British took 2000 prisoners, 13 guns, 7 machine guns, and a great quantity of supplies. Once, too, a large amount of ammunition was found which the Germans in their haste had left behind. This part of France is covered by a net-

## THE MARCH TOWARDS PARIS 55

work of little rivers running into the Seine, and the crossing of these was made terribly difficult for both the Germans and the Allies. By the 12th September the Germans had crossed the Aisne and had taken up their position in the trenches already prepared on the hills and among the woods to the north of the river. The battle of the Marne finished on the 10th September, and the battle of the Aisne began two days later. It was the longest battle which has ever been fought, and its story must be left for another chapter.

## CHAPTER V

### THE WAR AT SEA

WHEN the war began, all Englishmen felt that, whatever happened on land, only one thing could happen on the sea, and that was that Great Britain would win the victory. The reason why everyone felt so sure of this, is that for hundreds of years the British have been bold sailors, sailing their ships all over the world; and that, just because everyone knew it was the sea which kept away the enemy from the shores of Great Britain, we have always had a bigger number of fighting ships than any other country.

Great Britain would be no longer a free country if any enemy had a bigger number of fighting ships. As soon as the enemy liked he would sail his ships out to fight against our ships, and then when he had beaten them he could bring over his soldiers and guns, and conquer Great Britain. So we have always been determined that, however much money we spent, we should have a much stronger and bigger navy than any other country. Each year the English Government make up their minds how many ships of all the different kinds we must have to keep our Navy stronger than that of other countries, and then the country has to pay the bill for the ships in its taxes.

Now for many years this bill has been growing bigger every year, until it is now so great that everyone feels how terrible a thing it is to spend so much money simply to build ships to fight with. Since the Germans fought the French in 1870 the bill for the British Navy has grown five times as great, and yet the Navy is not nearly so strong as it used to be, in comparison with the navies of other countries. At one



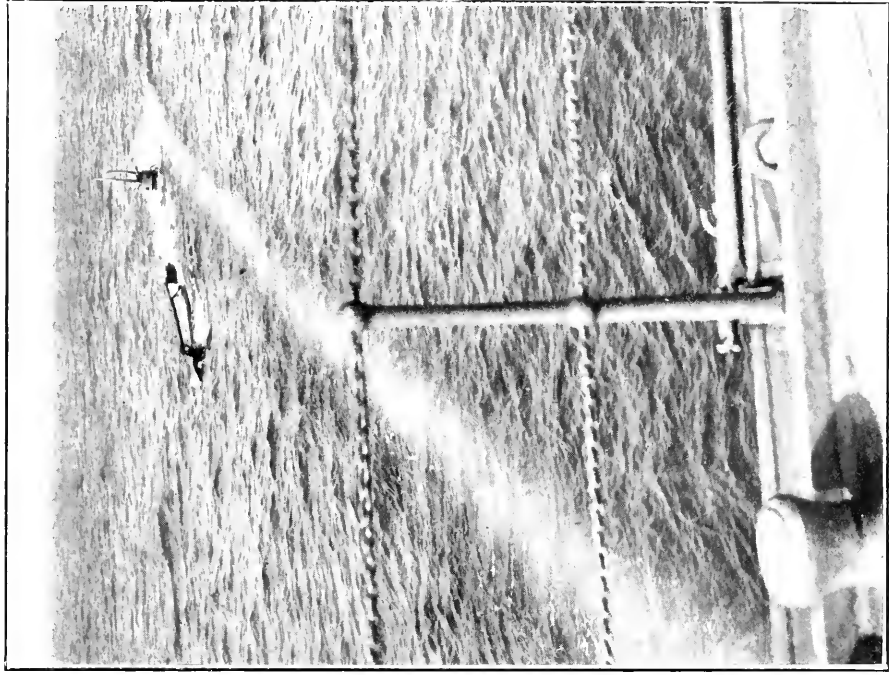
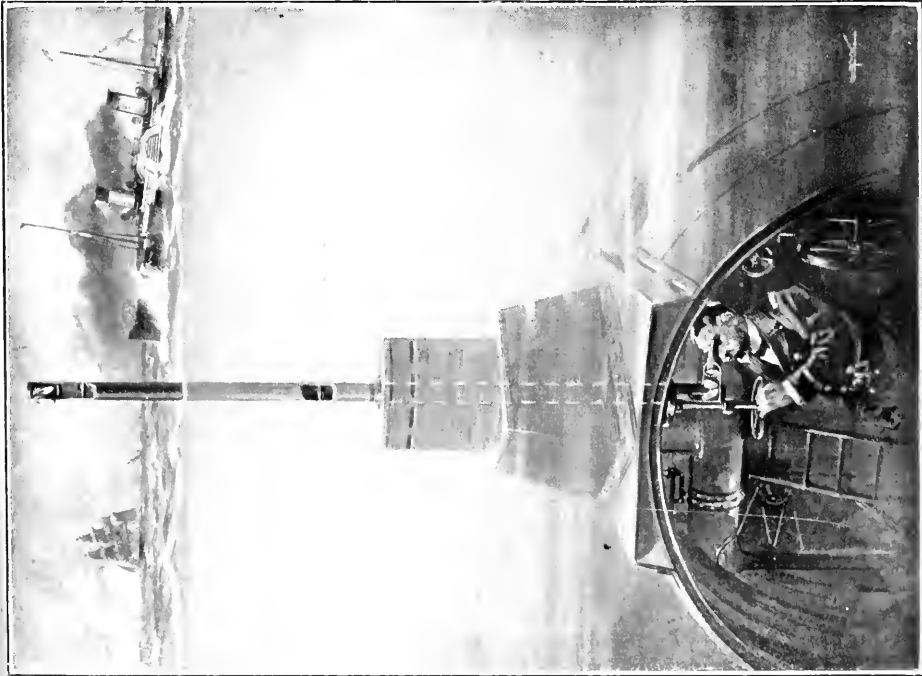


Photo by Graphic Photo Union

**HOW THE "PATHFINDER" WAS SUNK**  
The path of a submarine's torpedo



Drawn by H. W. Kocklock

**THE "EYES" OF THE SUBMARINE THE PERISCOPE**  
The officer is seeing what is going on on the surface of the water



time, not many years ago, the Navy had two ships for every one that the navies of any two other countries had together. But since Germany commenced to build a big fleet it has been impossible to build enough ships to have two for each one of hers alone. Great Britain has recently had to be content with building ten ships for every six the Germans built.

Why did Germany build all these ships? She could not have been afraid of the British attacking her, because she always felt that we were no longer a warlike nation; and, moreover, she had built such strong forts on her small coast-line that a navy twice as strong as ours would not stand much chance in attacking them. Many men have thought that Germany built this large fleet so that when some time we should be at war with another country she could make a sudden attack on our Navy, defeat it, bring her soldiers over and conquer our country. She felt quite certain that in any war many of our ships would be required to defend the British colonies, and defend the ships which must come from all over the world to bring food to Great Britain. If this should be the case, her fleet would be equal to or perhaps greater than ours. She has now found out her mistake.

When the war broke out we were fortunately able to keep near the shores of our country a fleet almost double that which Germany had in the North Sea. For some of their ships were scattered all over the world in order to try to stop the ships which bring to this country food and stuffs like cotton, oil, and iron, with which the British people work. On the other hand, the Navy of France was joined to that of Great Britain near this country, and in the Pacific Ocean was the navy of our ally, Japan, as well as a number of the ships of the Russian Navy.

The first work of the British Navy was to seize all the German ships she could find, and to prevent any ships reaching Germany. No single ship could sail up the North Sea to any German port. In this way Great Britain kept out of Germany numbers of things she badly needed to keep

her industries going. Without cotton from the United States, Egypt, or India, all the German cotton-making factories would have to close. And although Germany is not nearly so dependent upon food brought from abroad, yet the fact that she could get no wheat from the United States, the Argentine, and Canada, made white bread scarce and made the prices high. This preventing of ships reaching a country is called a blockade, and the British blockade of Germany was one of the strongest weapons to force Germany to give in.

Prices of food went up everywhere, but nowhere so much as in Germany and Austria. Sugar was one of the things which in England became dearest, because we used to get a good deal of our sugar from Germany ; but in Germany the war had not started very long before many necessary things became scarce—oil and petrol for the aeroplanes and submarines, copper to make the shell for guns, skins of animals to make leather.

The seizing of German ships and the blockade of her coast was done very easily by the British Navy. The few German warships which were not in the German harbours when war broke out had their revenge to some extent. Although the British ships could generally sail across the wide ocean as safely as if there were no war, now and then a German warship would appear suddenly and seize or sink a British ship. The little cruiser called the *Emden* did the most damage of all.

This was, of course, exactly what the German ships were meant for. The Germans are good sailors, though not so good as the British, and they knew well enough that if their fleet came out to fight it could only be beaten by the British. So what they did was to keep all their big ships safe in the German harbours, and send out the smaller ones to try and sink the big British ships. They thought that perhaps so many of our big ships might be sunk in this way that later on their fleet would have just as many big ships, and then they could come out and fight.

The biggest fighting ships are called Dreadnoughts, or Super-Dreadnoughts. The first Dreadnought was a ship called by this name which was built in 1906, and was different from earlier battleships in having so large a number of the biggest guns. These Dreadnoughts are really big floating forts. They have round them a belt of steel armour which nothing but a shot from the very biggest guns can pierce. Take the *Orion* and her three sister ships for instance. Her armour belt is 12 inches thick, she has ten guns which can throw to a distance of about 20 miles, shells which with their explosives weigh about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  tons, and she can steam about 24 miles per hour. The work of these huge ships of war is to fight, and there are, of course, great numbers of other battleships for the same purpose ; but they are not so strong.

Besides these fighting ships there are another sort of warships which have to be able to steam with great speed to find the enemy's fleet. These are called cruisers. The strongest of them, battle cruisers, have to be big and strong enough to keep the enemy's strongest ships—even Dreadnoughts—fighting until the battleships come up. Cruisers have also to do the chief part in seizing the enemy's trading-ships, in blockading the enemy's coasts, and in protecting their own smaller ships.

Torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers—generally called destroyers—are the smaller vessels. They lie very low in the water, steam at a great speed, and act as the eyes and ears of the battleship fleets. There are some hundreds of them in the British Navy, and it was owing to the splendid way they patrolled the coasts that it was impossible for the German Navy ever to make a sudden attack upon the English ports.

The smallest ships of all are the submarines. The name means "under water," and submarines can sail under water ; but they can sail above water as well. When they are seen out of water they look like big fish ; but they are difficult to see even when they sail above water. Only the "conning tower," from which the officers look over and round the sea,

the long tube called the periscope, and a bit of the hull can be seen. They can sail under water for quite a long time. They carry a supply of air, water, and food, and while they are under water a man is always stationed at the lower end of the periscope, which is the eye of the submarine. There is a small mirror in the top part which is only just above the surface of the water as the submarine sails below, and another at the bottom part. By looking at this lower mirror, all that is on the surface above is seen.

The navies of to-day have also hydroplanes, which are aeroplanes with floats on, so that they can come down on the surface of the water.

As soon as it was known that war was going to take place, Admiral Jellicoe was appointed to command the whole fleet. Admiral Jellicoe is a born fighter, and he is also well known as a clever thinker and planner of sea fights, and he knows as much as anyone can about guns and how to fire them. He had fought in China and Egypt, and men who wished the fleet to fight its best always wished Admiral Jellicoe to command it.

So well had the Navy been trained that only three hours after war had been declared, at three o'clock in the morning of the 5th August, two submarines went into the Bay or Bight of Heligoland, the very strong island fortress which guards the German coasts. Since that time the submarines have been almost all the time watching the German coasts, sailing up their rivers and to the mouth of the Kiel Canal. The Germans knew they were there, but could not find them or keep them out. Sometimes for hours they were hunted, fired at by guns and torpedoed. The torpedo is like a small fish in shape, and it is driven by machinery which also keeps it at a fixed depth in the water and in a fixed direction. When a ship wishes to fire a torpedo, it puts the torpedo in a tube, and after setting the machinery going, lets it drop into the water. If it strikes a ship it explodes, as it contains a big amount of explosive.



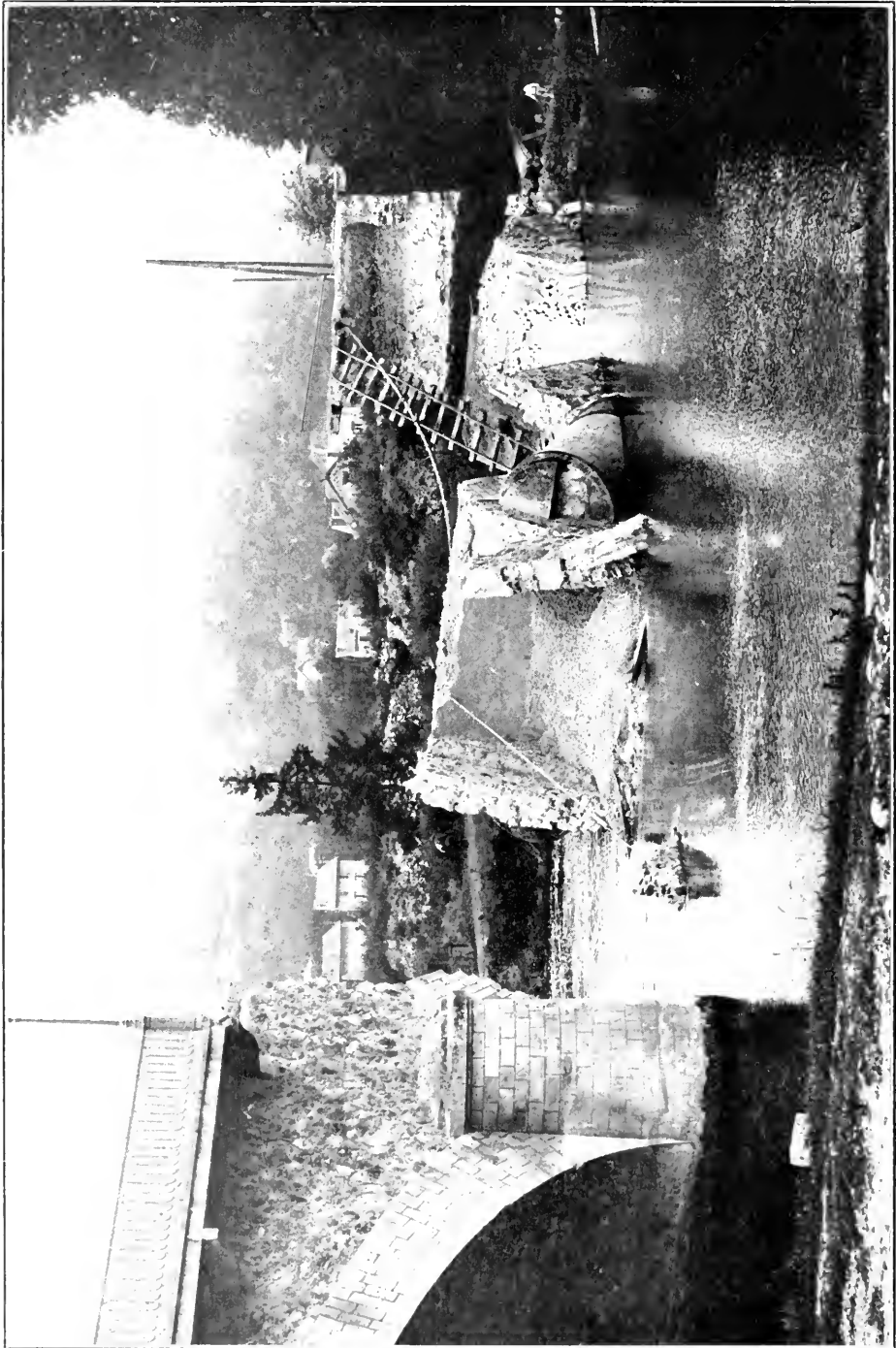


Photo by Central News

WHERE THE GERMANS MADE "AN OBSTINATE DEFENCE" AGAINST THEIR BRITISH PURSUERS

The wrecked bridge over the Marne at La Ferté



That was how the British commenced the war on the sea, by sending our submarines to find out all that was going on in the German forts. The Germans commenced the war in a different manner. They began by laying mines. A mine is a steel machine which floats at a fixed depth below the water. It has several pieces of steel like arms on its top surface, and if any ships should touch one of these it would be blown up, because there is a great deal of explosive inside which would go off. At different times in recent years men from all the great countries have met together to decide how to make war as little dreadful as possible. In one of these councils it was agreed not to use dum-dum bullets, which are a kind of bullet that gives a very great deal of pain by tearing the flesh as they go through, yet it is almost certain that the Germans did use some of these bullets in the war of 1914.

In many of the councils the British representatives, as well as those of other countries, have tried to make rules about where mines should be placed and what sort of mines should be used. Everyone agreed that a nation could put these mines round the mouths of the rivers of its enemy to prevent his ships coming out, or round the mouths of his own rivers to prevent the enemy coming in.

But all except Germany felt how unjust and cruel it is to put mines just anywhere in the open sea, so that trading-ships would go ever in danger of striking them. Germany would not agree with the other countries to make rules on this subject, and succeeded in getting it left quite free where mines might be laid. Quite early in the war, many vessels which had no connection with the war, and indeed did not even belong to any of the nations at war, struck these German mines and sank. It was nearly three months after the war commenced that Great Britain began to use mines against Germany at all widely; before that she had put mines in one place only, to guard the Straits of Dover.

It was German mines which caused the first disasters on

the sea. On the 4th August a German destroyer was sunk by striking a German mine, and the next day a big German ship was caught by a British patrol laying mines, and it was made to fight and was sunk by H.M.S. *Lance*. Unfortunately the following day the cruiser *Amphion*, which was with H.M.S. *Lance* when it fought the mine-layer, struck one of the mines and sank. Many lives were lost, some being those of Germans who had been rescued the day before as the mine-layer sank.

Little more had happened in the war at sea when it was determined to make at least some of the German warships fight. A German submarine had been run into—"rammed," as it is called—by a British cruiser, and one or two German ships had been sunk. But as not even the long line of big passenger ships crossing the Channel to France with the Expeditionary Force could persuade the German ships to come out, a plan was made to coax them out. All the time the British soldiers had been crossing the sea, the submarines had stood day and night ready to attack the German ships.

Three of these wonderful little vessels sailed at daylight on the 28th August towards the island fortress of Heligoland. It was known that here lay a big part of the great German Navy. The three small ships sailed on without any attempt to hide themselves, so that the enemy might be coaxed to come out and chase them. The plan was successful, and several light cruisers came out and chased the submarines and the accompanying destroyers, *Lurcher* and *Firedrake*.

Meanwhile the cruiser *Arethusa*, which had only commenced its active service a few days before, was sailing with two flotillas of destroyers to cut off from Heligoland and drive out to sea any German cruisers or destroyers she might find. A little before seven o'clock a German destroyer was seen and chased by some British destroyers. About half an hour later the *Arethusa* and some other destroyers found and commenced to fight a number of German destroyers and

torpedo boats. Two German cruisers then appeared and joined in the battle. The *Arethusa* beat one off, and the other turned off to attack H.M.S. *Fearless*. The *Arethusa* was a good deal damaged by this action. At one point only one gun remained which could be fired; the deck took fire, and by some greater mishap her speed was reduced.

But in a little while the fire was put out; all the guns but one were again put into working order, and hearing that the *Lurcher* and *Firedrake* with the submarines were being chased, she steamed off to help them. Another big German cruiser appeared, and the *Arethusa* must have felt herself in a very dangerous position; but every single shot of the cruiser failed to reach the *Arethusa*, whose guns damaged the German and put her to flight.

The German cruiser *Mainz* then appeared, but the *Arethusa* and *Fearless* and the destroyers shot so well that in twenty-five minutes she sank. Then a large four-funnelled cruiser was seen, and the *Arethusa* opened fire on her, but seemed to do no damage. But the British battle cruiser squadron which came up sank the cruiser, and damaged and set on fire another. The *Arethusa* could only steam very slowly after this hard day's work, and at about seven o'clock she had to be drawn by another cruiser.

While all this was going on, strange things were happening quite near by. The submarine called E4 saw a German destroyer sink. At once the British destroyers lowered their boats to pick up any of the German sailors they could find in the water; but a German cruiser attacked the destroyers while they were trying to save the drowning sailors. E4, seeing this, attacked the cruiser, which turned away. Then, having guarded the destroyers in their retreat from the cruiser, E4 went back to the place where the boats had been left in the sea.

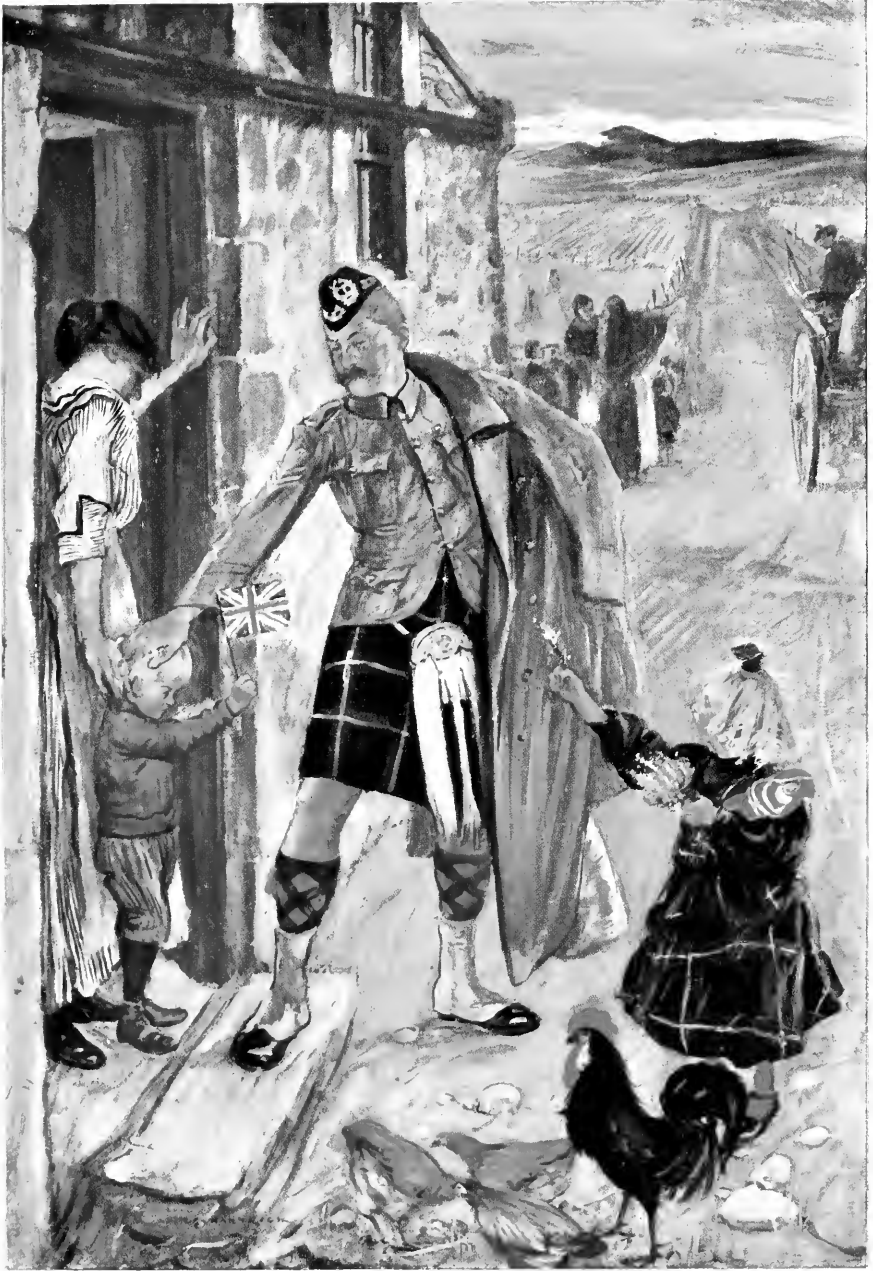
These small boats were now in a very miserable state, lying in the open sea without food or water. Suddenly E4 raced up, popped its conning tower out of the water, and

took in an officer and nine men of the destroyer *Defender*, who were in charge of a boat ; took also a German officer and two men prisoners, and left one German officer and six wounded men to take the boats with the wounded to Heligoland. It was a very dangerous action for this submarine to remain so long on the surface of the water quite close to the enemy, for the Germans never stopped shooting when the wounded were being saved. Yet it remained there until it had left the Germans water, biscuits, and a compass. Then it closed its conning tower and sank out of sight.

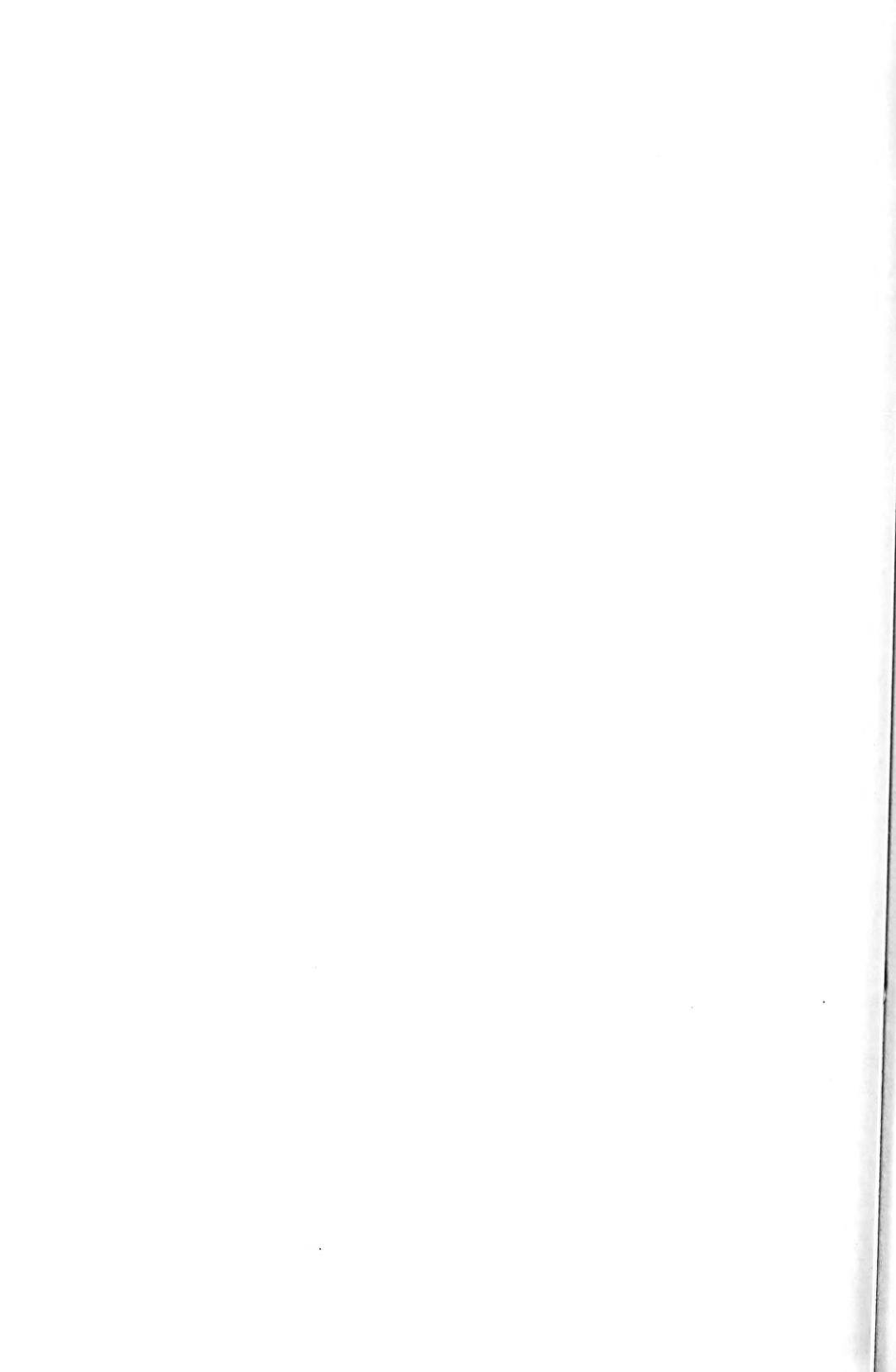
At the end of the day's fighting the British had sunk three German cruisers and two destroyers, and badly damaged seven other destroyers. No British ships were sunk. The *Arethusa*, as we have seen, was so badly damaged that she had to be towed into port by another cruiser ; and there were, besides, the two destroyers *Laertes* and *Laurel*, which were badly damaged. So ended the " Battle of the Bight." It was a splendid British victory, and it showed that the British sailors were as good fighters as in the days of Elizabeth's " sea-dogs " or of the great Lord Nelson.

There were a few more exciting days in September before disaster fell upon a British force on the 22nd. Submarine E9 on September 13th sailed up to Heligoland and torpedoed the German cruiser *Hela* a little south of the island, and a small British cruiser had been sunk by a German submarine.

Three fairly large though rather old British cruisers were patrolling the North Sea not far from the mouth of the Thames on the 22nd September, when one of them, the *Aboukir*, suddenly was seen to be sinking. The other two cruisers, thinking the *Aboukir* had struck a mine and wishing to save their fellow-sailors, at once steamed to her and stood by to save the crew. They were then in an ideal position for the attack of a submarine, for they were quite still. And both were speedily sunk by these terrible little vessels. As soon as the submarine saw that the three cruisers must sink, they sailed away, not stopping to pick up the men



THE HIGHLANDERS' ADAPTATION OF HART-DICK'S ARMS.



as English ships always do. The cruiser *Lowestoft* and some destroyers and trawlers saved a number of the sailors. But the loss of life was very great, and it was a horrible thing to think that two of the ships and their crews might have been saved if they had not tried to help their friends in the other cruiser.

Still up to the fall of the Belgium city, Antwerp, on the 9th October, the Germans had lost twice as many fighting ships as Great Britain. The British sailors were waiting and hoping still for the chance of a really big fight against the German Navy.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE RUSSIANS

It is now time to look back and see what had been happening in the East while all these glorious and terrible things had been going on in the West on land and sea. We have seen how Russia was naturally the protector of Servia and the little Slav countries against the Teutonic powers of Germany and Austria. Fifty years ago, most of the countries of Europe were very much afraid of an attack by Russia, with her huge armies. Then came the war between Russia and Japan, in which in 1904 the armies of little Japan won an enormous victory over the immense armies of Russia. There were many reasons for this defeat. The Russian armies, though immense, had not been well arranged, and also the Russians had not, perhaps, thought that Japan could be a very strong enemy to fight.

In any case, after 1904 the " Russian bogey " was no longer feared in Europe. No one knew after this just what Russia would be like if she should fight in another war. She still, of course, had her millions of men, but there was always the idea that she might use them badly, as she had done in the fight with Japan. The story of Russia's part in the war of 1914 proves how wrong that idea was. The story is one of the most glorious marches to victory.

For the last thirty years or more great changes have been going on in Russia, not unlike those which have taken place in Germany. Russia's trade and manufacture have increased immensely, and all sorts of progress have been made. The Russian Government is a despotism, but in some ways it is a freer government than that of Germany. Russia has



been friendly with France for many years now. France lent her money to help her to make her trade better when Germany refused it, and since England joined in the *Triple Entente* she has been very friendly with England too.

For many years now Germany has been terribly jealous and afraid of Russia. Her alliance with Austria was made deliberately against Russia. Many great railways have been built in the German provinces which border on Russia, Pomerania, East Prussia, and Posen. (Posen is really the chief part of German Poland, the part of that country which Germany took when Poland was "partitioned" in the eighteenth century.) These railways were very little used—just like the railways which the Germans built on their western frontier running up to the boundary of Belgium. Both sets of railways were really built to be ready to carry supplies when Germany should be ready for war.

We have seen how Germany really forced the war on Russia and France. Austria was not really anxious for war, but was persuaded by Germany.

However, when war was declared the Russian people were as eager as the Germans, but they showed their eagerness in different ways. The Germans have always despised the Russians as "barbarians." It is true that the Russians are mostly a simple peasant people. They have not given to the world so many men of science and philosophers as Germany has, though many of the greatest writers have been Russians. But the story of their part in the war of 1914 shows them as finer soldiers, and certainly as more generous conquerors than the Germans. They were not guilty in any way of the cruelty and barbarities which gave the Germans the name of "the mad dogs of Europe." The feeling in Russia against Germany is shown by the fact that they changed the names of their towns which had German endings: their capital *St. Petersburg* is now called *Petrograd*, for *burg* is the German for town, while *grad* is the Slav

word. It is quite certain that the name will never be changed back again.

The war indeed was for the Russians a kind of crusade or holy war. The Kaiser made many speeches, both before the war and while it was going on, in which he always declared that he was fighting for God and the right, but everyone has laughed at these declarations. But the Russian soldiers felt that they really were fighting for the right, and they marched along with the war-cry, "For God and the Tsar."

The Russians are a religious nation, and every regiment has its *Ikon* or picture of a saint, which gives comfort to the soldiers. Just as it is the English soldier's way to go to battle with a song like "Tipperary," so it is the Russian way to advance to the sound of hymns. It was in this way that the great Russian armies went out to battle.

We must not think that because Russia had such immense armies that she was sure to defeat the Germans. If Germany had attacked Russia first instead of France, the Russians would have had a very hard fight indeed. People talk of the "Russian steam-roller," picturing the armies as a great weight rolling on slowly but surely, crushing everything before it. This is a true description in a way of what happened in 1914, though the armies in fact moved very quickly forward—not slowly, as the name "steam-roller" would make us think.

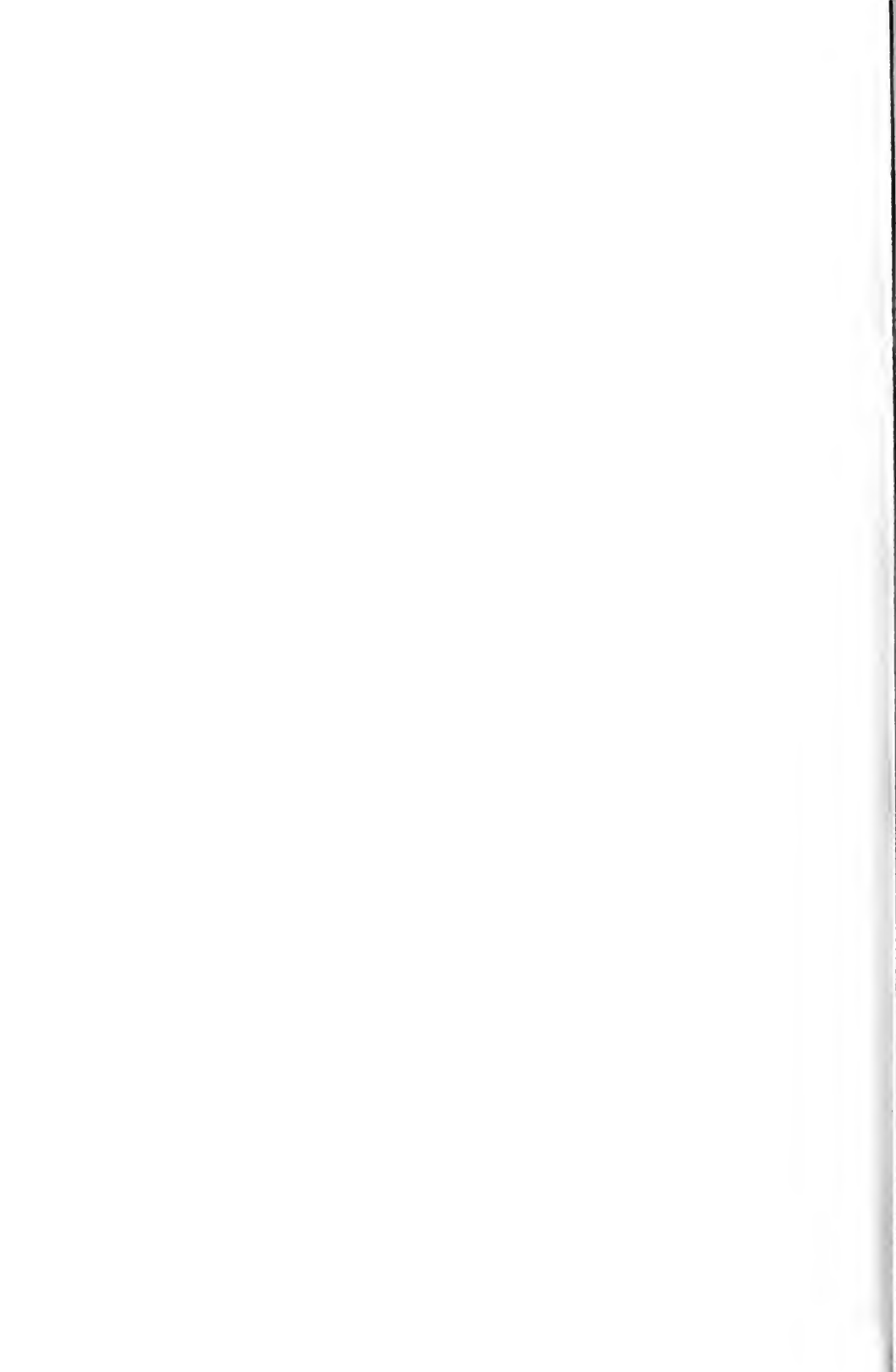
If Germany had attacked Russia first, the Russian armies would not in fact have been quite ready, and Germany would have had a chance of victory. But Germany, as we know, decided to attack France, and having conquered that country, then to deal with Russia. But she was wrong on two points. First, she could not conquer France; and secondly, it was not so long, after all, before the Russian armies were ready to fight.

If we look just for a moment at the map of Europe, we shall see how the western frontiers of Russia run along Germany and Austria. This frontier is 1500 miles long. The greater part of it is the boundary line of Russian Poland,



Drawn by W. E. Frost

ONE OF THE BIGGEST BATTLESHIPS IN THE WORLD, H.M.S. "QUEEN ELIZABETH"



which juts out like a great wedge between Germany and Austria. Anyone who does not know much about wars might think that the first thing the Russians would do would be to march from Russian Poland straight upon Berlin. But the Russian generals knew that an army going forward in this way could easily be attacked on both sides by the enemy. The Germans from East Prussia would close in upon it on one side, and the Austrians from Galicia (which is really Austrian Poland) on the other. It is certain that the Russian generals are brilliantly clever men. We do not know which of them really suggested the plans in the war of 1914, but they were so clever and well thought out that people have said that Russia must have among its men the greatest general since Napoleon. The head of all the armies is the Grand Duke Nicholas, the uncle of the Tsar. Many people say that he is the greatest living general. The other Russian general of whom most was heard during the war was General Rennenkampf, who showed himself to be a very fine general indeed.

The Russian plan of war was to invade East Prussia to the north, and Galicia to the south. When these were conquered, great Russian armies could pour through Russian Poland, invade Germany, and, it was hoped, march to Berlin. Both provinces are well fortified, the two great fortresses of East Russia being Königsberg and Danzig. East Prussia is not separated from Russian Poland by any range of hills. The land here is a plain, very wet and marshy in the autumn, with forests and lakes dotted about it. The chief fortresses of Galicia are Cracow and Przemyśl.

Germany declared war on Russia in the most insulting manner on the 1st August. Already on the 3rd there was fighting on the Russian and German frontiers between little bands of soldiers. Before many days all the world was surprised to hear that a Russian army had advanced into East Prussia, and had begun to smash up the railways. There was skirmishing or fighting between small bands of men on

the next few days, and on the 16th it was announced that the main Russian armies were advancing. On the 19th the Russian army in East Prussia had gained a real victory over the Germans at Eydtkuhnen, a town near the East Prussian frontier, and on the 20th another Russian army marched into Galicia. The Austrians were already fighting with Servia, and they could not have felt very happy about the soldiers they had sent to defend Galicia. They were chiefly Slavs from the Slav lands which Austria governs, and it was hardly likely that they would be very eager to fight for Austria.

The Austrians had encouraged the Poles in Galicia to try to get the Russian Poles to rise in rebellion against the Tsar, but on the 13th August the Tsar had done a very wise and fine thing. He himself made a proclamation, promising the Poles that when Russia had defeated Germany and Austria he would join the different parts of Poland together again, and Poland should be a nation once more governing itself under the Tsar. The commander-in-chief of the Russian armies made a proclamation to the Poles in inspiring words. "Poles!" it began, "the hour has sounded when the sacred dream of your fathers and your grandfathers may be realized," and went on to tell how Russia was going to make this dream a reality at last. "With open heart and brotherly hand great Russia advances to meet you. . . . From the shores of the Pacific to the North Sea the Russian armies are marching. The dawn of a new life is beginning for you." From this time the Poles were among the most enthusiastic subjects of the Tsar. Austria had nothing to hope for from them.

A week after the Tsar's proclamation, Austria announced that she no longer looked on the fight with Servia as a definite war, but merely as an expedition to punish the Servians for the part they had taken in the murder of the Archduke. The Servians had already won several victories over the Austrians, and the invasion of her land had been beaten off.

## ONWARD MARCH OF RUSSIANS 71

But it was not for this that the announcement was made, but probably because Austria wanted to take some of her soldiers from Servia to fight in Galicia.

Meanwhile in East Prussia the Russians were advancing quickly, though the Germans fought fiercely in several big battles. The Russians advancing to Konigsberg captured many men and guns, and the famous Cossacks—the best horsemen in the world—did splendid work against the enemy. The Cossacks can do almost anything as easily on horseback as off. They will cross rivers with their horses swimming, while they themselves stand high and dry on the horses' backs. A story is told of how ten Cossacks killed a whole squadron of German cavalry. The ten seemed to fall down shot beside their horses, but they were only pretending, and when the German horsemen dropped their sabres and rushed forward to seize the horses, the Cossacks jumped up and killed every one of them.

Before the end of August the Russians were laying siege to Konigsberg, and other armies were advancing, but more slowly, towards Danzig. By this time the Germans were becoming alarmed and were hurrying soldiers over from Belgium to East Prussia, sending "reserves"—men who were generally kept for the defence of Germany—to take their place. This was the one advantage to Germany of lying as she did between her two enemies. She could move armies from west to east and back again to the place where they were needed most, and it was now that she got the advantage of the great railways she had built in preparation for the war.

Opposite the left of the Russian line in East Prussia the Germans held their own much better than the armies farther east.

When the Germans had finished pouring their troops into East Prussia there were 600,000 soldiers there, under the command of General von Hindenberg. With this big army the Germans attacked both flanks of the Russian army. The Russians were driven back into the marshy lands of the fron-

tier and were slaughtered in the most terrible way. General Sansonov, one of the best-beloved of the Russian generals, was killed during this fighting. He was noted for the way in which he refused to take greater care of himself than of his men. He would go where the fight was fiercest, saying that his place was with his soldiers. But General Rennenkampf, who was the chief commander in East Prussia, got his men who were left together, and retreated in an orderly way. His troops drew off from East Prussia, and were back on Russian soil on the 16th September.

The delighted Germans followed them fast, and the Russians drew back over the river Niemen. Still the Germans followed, but suddenly the Russians turned, fell upon them, defeated them completely, and began their victorious advance again into East Prussia. It must not be thought that the first Russian advance into East Prussia was a mere waste of time and men, as the French advance into Alsace really seems to have been. East Prussia is the German land which the Kaiser loves above all others. It is there that he goes to shoot. Through the attack on this land he loved so well it was decided to draw off great numbers of German soldiers from the West to go East, and this of course helped the allied armies in the West.

The second advance into East Prussia was made under much better conditions. By this time the Russians had a great army ready in Russian Poland on the middle of the river Vistula, the great river which rises in Austrian land, flows through Russian Poland, and into East Prussia with its great mouth on which Danzig stands.

But about the time that the great battle of the Niemen was fought, General von Hindenberg was put at the head of all the German and Austrian armies on the Eastern front, which he reorganized completely. By the 5th October there were four million Russians drawn up to fight in the East, while General von Hindenberg had between two and three millions of men with whom to face them.



## ONWARD MARCH OF RUSSIANS 73

Meanwhile the Russian advance into Galicia had been going on steadily, and with constant victory for the Russians. Within five days after entering Galicia on the 20th August, the Russians had reached Lemberg, having defeated army after army of Austrians on their way. The Austrians seem to have been commanded very badly, and one whole army was smashed to bits through mismanagement. As the Russians advanced the Austrians retreated westward, leaving carts, guns, and all sorts of supplies blocking up the chief roads. Often, indeed, the Russians advanced by the smaller roads rather than waste time in clearing the highways. When the Russians took Lemberg on the 2nd September, they found the hospitals and all the big buildings full of wounded Austrians who had been brought in from the front. They got a great prize in vast quantities of ammunition which had been stored up in the town. In these twelve days' fighting the Russians had taken or killed 130,000 men and captured 200 guns.

The Austrians in their turn had invaded Russian Poland from the south, and the victorious Russians turned after the capture of Lemberg to deal with these. The town of Tomaszow which the Austrians had taken there was recaptured after fierce fighting. In all this district the Austrian armies were also defeated. It was said that 30,000 more prisoners and several hundred guns were taken. Altogether the Russians had taken 200,000 Austrian prisoners, and this fact made many people think that the Austrians were not very eager for the fight, though in Russian Poland there were Germans too, brought up by Von Hindenberg to strengthen the Austrian armies.

By this time the Servians had not only driven off the Austrian invaders but were attacking an Austrian fortress on the Danube. In Vienna there was much discontent. Austria had suffered greatly from the rise of prices and the poverty which war brings, and in the Austrian capital there were many riots and processions of unemployed. It

was about the same time that it began to be known in Germany that all had not gone well in the West. Before this the reports allowed by the Government to be put in the newspapers were full of lies, and the people of Berlin and other German towns were very angry when the real state of affairs began to be known.

Still the Austrians drew up for battle again between Przemysl and Cracow, which used to be the second most important town in Poland, and is now the chief town of Galicia. From Lemberg the Russians still advanced, always fighting hard and driving scattered bands of Austrian soldiers before them. At one place, where the Russians took the trenches "at the point of the bayonet," the Austrian soldiers had been seven days in the trenches with no one to take away the bodies of the dead, and with nothing to eat for four days but raw potatoes.

Jaroslav, an important town, was taken, and Przemysl was surrounded. The Russians have so many men that they are not obliged to take all the fortresses on their way before they pass on, as they can always spare men to "mask" the fortress and prevent the defenders escaping. On the 17th September the Russians were able to tell the world definitely that the Austrian armies in Galicia had been completely defeated, and that the Russians had taken 100,000 prisoners, 400 guns, and many flags and supplies, while a quarter of a million men had been killed and wounded.

From Galicia the Russians made up their minds to cross the Carpathian Mountains. So while one army marched straight for Cracow, another seized the railways through the Carpathians, smashing up a big body of Austrian soldiers left to defend them, while a third army even entered the Austrian plain and threatened Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

The Russians were able to make use of the enemy's trains through the Carpathians, though the Cossacks led their horses on foot through the steep mountain passes.

All this happened early in October, when the general

German attack on Russia began. But before long the remnants of the Austrian armies were got together again, and for the first time seemed to fight really well. They took Jaroslav again, and drove the Russians back from Przemysl, but not for long. The Russians soon got back to the former position, and before long the Austrians were defending Cracow, the one hope of keeping the Russians out of Silesia and the very heart of Germany.

Meanwhile great things had been happening in Russian Poland. The great Russian army still lay on the banks of the middle Vistula, while the armies of the Kaiser marched in vast numbers, too, through the swamps and marshy roads of Russian Poland to attack them. The Russians were content to wait. They themselves, if they could choose their time, would not attack until the early winter, when the frosts would have made these roads beautifully firm for the soldiers and guns to advance.

So the Russians did not attempt to stop the Germans. The German reports told of their irresistible advance. It was irresistible because it was not resisted. The spies whom the Germans had in Russia, as everywhere else, told that Warsaw, the chief town in Russian Poland and the old Polish capital, was empty. The people had fled to a place of safety eastward, for it must be remembered that the Germans behaved in Russia, when they had the chance, with the same cruelty they had used in Belgium.

Warsaw was not empty long. It was soon filled with soldiers brought by three lines of railway from different parts of Russia. As fast as they arrived they were sent to the places where they were to be in the great battle. When General von Hindenberg drew near to the Vistula he saw that he was to fight a far bigger army than he had thought to be near Warsaw. Messages were sent to call in troops from farther down his line, but the Russian generals opposite these troops saw what was being done and themselves sent troops to strengthen the centre. From north and south

Russian cavalry appeared to attack the flanks of the German army. The Battle of the Vistula was a complete and brilliant victory for the Russians. General von Hindenberg began a retreat which the Russians hoped would last until they reached Berlin.





Drawn by Georges Scott

WHEN THE FRENCH SOLDIER IS ALWAYS AT HIS BEST—AND THE GERMAN NOT. A BAYONET CHARGE

## CHAPTER VII

### THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES

WE saw that when Brussels was taken by the Germans the greater part of Belgium had been overrun by the enemy, but the towns of the North and Western part of the country had not yet been reached. Part of this land called the Waesland, between Ghent and Antwerp, is one of the prettiest districts of Belgium. It is covered with tiny farms beautifully clean and well kept. The Belgian soil in this district was not really very fertile, but the industrious Belgians brought cartloads of soil from other districts to improve their land. The Belgians are one of the most hard-working peoples of Europe, and their comfort has been slowly and steadily built up by the work of the people.

This makes the destruction of their country all the sadder. When the war is over it will take the patient Belgians many years to build up their farms and flower gardens again.

And the people of Belgium have always worked hard. It was because they worked and wove most of the cloth used in Europe in the Middle Ages that they were able to build their beautiful towns.

The destruction of one of these towns, the famous and beautiful city of Louvain, on the 25th August, five days after the taking of Brussels, horrified the whole world. The town was famous for its fine churches, its university, and its town hall. It was a city not unlike our own Oxford, and has often been called the Oxford of Belgium. It was a town which English scholars have always loved, and in the sixteenth century our own Sir Thomas More visited it, and wrote about its beauties. He had many friends living there,

and Erasmus, the greatest scholar of the time, who wandered from place to place, loved Louvain and its bookshops dearly. In Louvain perhaps more than anywhere else it was easy to imagine what people and places were like in the Middle Ages.

But the Germans, in spite of their "culture," had no respect for the loveliness of Louvain. They had already held the town some time when the order was given to destroy it.

At first all sorts of excuses were given for this. The Germans said that the people of Louvain had fought against them for twenty-four hours. But everybody knew that the Belgian soldiers who guarded the town had had their weapons taken from them, and that, though a thorough search had been made, no other weapons had been found in the town. Then it was said that the son of the burgomaster had shot at one of the chief German officers. This, too, was known to be untrue.

Another account, which may be true, was that some German soldiers driven from Malines, another of the beautiful little Belgian towns, marched to Louvain. The German soldiers, who had drunk far too much of the fine wines which they had stolen from the people of Louvain, mistook them for Belgians and fired upon them. When the mistake was discovered, they made up their minds to put the blame on the Belgians. So the order was given to destroy the town.

Three hundred men and boys were driven from their homes and shot without warning. Soldiers went from house to house and set fire to them. Many people were burned in the flames. Others were shot down as they fled away. The burgomaster, two magistrates, the head of the university, all the policemen, and at least seven priests were put against a wall and shot before the eyes of the people. In one place a hundred men were shut up in a church all night, and could hear the shrieks of their wives and children as the soldiers ill-treated them.



## THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES 79

The great church of St. Pierre was partly burned, and all the university buildings, with the famous library. People thought at first that the town hall was burned too. But even the Germans could not make up their mind to destroy this glorious Gothic building. It remained standing among a mass of blackened ruins. Many of the people of Louvain fled from the town. Women and children were driven out of it in great crowds by the soldiers, to increase the now immense numbers of refugees who were wandering homeless in foreign lands.

The burning of Louvain was all the more horrible because it was done so deliberately. The Germans saved what they liked. The great pictures from the church of St. Pierre were removed, probably to be sent to Berlin. There was a terrible amount of robbery, or "looting," by the Germans both in Belgium and France. Even the officers took pictures or works of art which they found in the rich men's houses, and they had the example of the Crown Prince, who chose for himself the finest treasures from the museum in a beautiful French chateau.

The Kaiser himself said that his "heart bled for Louvain," but nobody believed him, and though the officer who gave the order had his position as commander taken from him, everybody knew that it was not only his fault. If the general order for cruelty towards Belgium had not been given, no officer would have dared to behave like this.

Before many days news came that the pretty and prosperous little city of Malines, or Mechlin, as the Flemish call it, had been destroyed too by the modern Huns, and shortly after the charming little town of Termonde was treated in the same way, and so on with town after town and village after village, which had been only a few weeks before the most peaceful and happy spots in Europe, now turned into mere ruins with their people dead or fled away.

There was one consolation in the way in which the other nations tried to do their best to make the refugees as com-

fortable and happy as possible. The Archbishop of Malines was himself a refugee in England for a time, though he soon went back to his sad little town. He was much touched when the Dean of the Cathedral of Exeter said that the money collected in that year for the repairing of his own beautiful cathedral should be given instead towards the rebuilding of the damaged cathedral of Malines.

So the terrible suffering of Belgium went on, until at last the great fortress of Antwerp itself fell. In Antwerp were the King of the Belgians and his Government since the surrender of Brussels. The King's children were safe in England, but the Belgian Queen stayed with her husband. The town of Antwerp is surrounded by two rings of forts arranged very much like those at Liége and Namur. Not only the King and his Government, but the Belgian army too, were safe behind these forts. This army, though it had not been allowed to face the enemy in a great battle, gave them a great deal of trouble. Every now and then bands of soldiers would come out from Antwerp and attack fiercely the soldiers left to guard the railways. Several times whole German regiments were defeated, and points in the German lines of communication destroyed. By the time a German army corps was brought up to attack them, the Belgian soldiers were safe back again behind the forts of Antwerp.

At the same time the fight in France was going on fiercely. General Joffre was trying to do what General von Kluck had tried to do, and could not manage, to outflank the enemy. The line of the allied armies had been getting longer and longer to the left, and seemed to be creeping slowly but surely northward. New troops were continually being brought up. The Germans on their side did all they could to prevent General Joffre's men getting round their right, and their line got longer too. But if General Joffre could not get round the enemy's flank, his line, it seemed, would in time reach Antwerp, and then the Belgian army would be able to fight together with the Allies, who would be so much the

## THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES 81

stronger. The Germans made up their minds to prevent this by capturing Antwerp. They hoped, of course, to capture, too, the Belgian army there. They did at last take the town after a fierce siege, but the Belgian Government and the troops got safely away, and so the capture of Antwerp was not such a very great advantage after all.

As early as the 24th August, a week after King Albert went to Antwerp, one of the German airships passed over the city in the night, and dropped bombs. One bomb burst very near the royal palace. Later other airships came and dropped more bombs. Many people were killed in the streets. The bombs were probably aimed at the big buildings, and fell near these. One of the buildings struck was a Red Cross hospital, that is, a hospital where wounded soldiers were being looked after by nurses and doctors of the Red Cross Society. The work of this society is chiefly the helping of wounded people, and it has done splendid work in the war.

It was on the 27th September that the bombardment, or attack with big guns, began. Great howitzers like those which had been used at the sieges of Liège and Namur and at Maubeuge, and which had been on their way to Paris for the siege of that city until it was seen that there was not to be any siege, were to do the chief part in the smashing of the Antwerp forts.

It is said that there are only eight of the largest of these guns in the world, and they are called "Bertha Krupps," after the head of the great German firm of gunmakers; for, strangely enough, the head of this firm is a woman. The machinery to work these guns is so difficult to understand that only very clever engineers can work them. These guns require a specially made foundation of concrete on which to rest while they are being fired. At Maubeuge, it is said, the Germans had had one of the platforms necessary for the firing of these guns long ago prepared in what seemed an innocent factory, but which was really a building put

up by German spies to hide the platform which was in this way made in time of peace, and in a friendly country, ready for the time when war should come. So now at Antwerp another foundation of the same kind was ready in a beautiful country house outside the city. As soon as this part of the country was taken, the Germans destroyed the house and set up their guns on the foundation. Not only was the foundation there, but there, too, was another great gun ready for the Germans to use.

The people of Antwerp knew that the bombardment was going to begin when refugees from Malines, which is just outside their fortifications, came crowding in. The next day 80,000 German soldiers were before Antwerp, and the forts to the south of the town were being shelled by their great guns. One fort was taken in twenty-four hours, and another badly damaged. The commander of this second fort, which was called Fort Waelheim, did a very clever thing. Suddenly his guns stopped firing, and flames rose up from the fort. The Germans naturally thought that the guns were destroyed, and they rushed to take the fort. Then suddenly the big guns and the batteries from the trenches began firing again, and many hundreds of Germans lay dead around the fort. The Belgian artillery helped to defend the spaces between the forts, and the German infantry attacked these spaces too, but were hurled back time after time, and many were killed. But Fort Waelheim was soon damaged terribly, and worse than that, the banks of the great reservoir which stood behind the fort were broken by the shells. All the water for the city came from this, and of course no city could hold out long without water. The men at the batteries had to get away quickly, or they would have been drowned by the great floods of water. In the trenches the men of the British Royal Navy and Royal Marines (men who are trained to fight on land and sea, and who had been sent to help to defend Antwerp) were fighting, and fighting well.

## THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES 83

So the siege went on, with a fierce attack and heroic defence. But it is said that no fort in the world could stand against two blows from the 200-lb. shells of the "Bertha Krupp."

On the 8th October the Germans called on Antwerp to surrender, but she would not. But the Belgians knew that they could not save the city. They made ready, however, to save the army. The people of Antwerp had already begun to flee. Shipload after shipload were carried over to England, and to France. Those who could not find room on the ships pressed over the frontier into Holland. The troops were drawn off in good order, and all got safely out towards the south except about 18,000 Belgian infantry, and 2000 British soldiers, who by a mistake crossed into Holland. This was a great pity, for when soldiers pass over like this into the land of a neutral country they are "interned," that is, they must stay there and cannot fight any more during the war. Still, nearly all the soldiers had got safely past the Germans, and were now ready to join the allied armies after all. On the 9th October the burgomaster surrendered Antwerp to the Germans. But it was, really, a very useless prize. The garrison had escaped, the people had fled, the King was safe at Havre, though with no corner of his own land left to him. Only the tail of the long procession of sad and weary people, who had to press on into Holland on foot because all the trains were full, remained to be terrified by the brutal soldiery.

The Belgians had emptied the harbours of ships and destroyed the docks, so that Antwerp was a very useless prize indeed. It was not long before the Germans were making loud promises to the people of Antwerp of the good treatment they would receive if only they would come back again. But the Belgians were distrustful and took no notice.

The Belgian army now joined the left of the long line of the allied armies. By the time Antwerp fell, the great battle

of the Aisne had been going on for a month. It was the longest battle in history, and we must now see how it was fought.

The battle of the Aisne really commenced on the 12th September. The Germans had entrenched themselves on the high plateau to the north of the wide river. It was a splendid position, for from the plateau the guns could rain shells on the bridges. Then, too, it was impossible for the soldiers in the line of the allied armies to see the top of the plateau because of the little woods dotted over the slopes which led up to it from the river. The Germans had prepared trenches even while they hoped they would take Paris, and would never need them, for armies must always be prepared for the worst as well as the best. Part of the defences on the plateau consisted of great quarries, which, it was known afterwards, had been worked only by Germans for a long time before the war. Here, too, they had made ready for war and even stored up ammunition and supplies.

The British Army was in the part of the line near Soissons, and on the 13th Sir John French made up his mind to cross the river. He could not know how many soldiers the enemy had left as rear guards to prevent this, but he thought that his men must have had to fight against about 120,000 Germans. Some of the troops got across fairly easily, but one division was met by terrible shell fire. One brigade of infantry had actually to cross the river walking one behind the other on the iron support of a broken railway bridge. It was only wide enough for one man to pass along, and this not very easily. Sir John French set his men to build bridges across the river at different points all along his part of the line. The bridges had to be made strong enough to bear not only the men, but the wagons with ammunitions and supplies. The men had to build them with the enemy firing upon them all the time. Many men lost their lives in this work, but they made it possible for the whole army to get across. On the evening of the 14th it was impossible



Prussian troops in the forest from a sketch by Ph. de Villiers

GERMANS SMOKED OUT OF THEIR HIDING-PLACE BY BRITISH INFANTRY

A fight in a blazing wood





## THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES 85

for the British to know whether the Germans were only resting for a moment in their retreat or meant to make a real stand. So Sir John French ordered a general advance, and soon found that the enemy meant to make a real fight. Sir Douglas Haig, at the head of the first corps, led his men so well that they were able to take up very fine positions. General French specially praised Sir Douglas Haig in his reports, saying that he had made it possible for the British army to take up strong positions for many weeks of fighting. Time after time great bodies of infantry were thrown against Sir Douglas Haig and his first corps, who were on the right of the British line, but he was never driven from his position. The corps took many hundreds of prisoners and several guns, even on the first days of the fight. For here at the Aisne fighting was to last for weeks. The Germans had dug their trenches so deep and well, and had such a vast number of guns, that the battle was more like a siege. Great siege guns, were again used by the Germans, and killed very many men, until Sir John French insisted that the British too should dig their trenches deeper and deeper still, and then the shells did less harm.

Sir John French had, of course, to act according to the plan of the general battle, and he kept his third corps in reserve to help anywhere along the line after General Joffre told him on the 16th September that he was going to lengthen the line on the west to try to outflank the Germans, as we have already seen.

For three days the British were bombarded in the most terrible way, and when Sir John French saw that the battle was going to last many days more, he began an arrangement by which the men in the trenches were relieved by some of the reserves, so that all in turn went south of the river, and got some rest from the terrible shell fire. The soldiers might joke about the "Black Marias" and the "Jack Johnsons," as they called the great shells, but the constant firing naturally tired them. The constant lying in the

trenches, too, with only the very slowest movement forward when any was made at all, was very terrible.

When at last quiet days came occasionally, through the enemy deciding to attack more strongly some other part of the line, the men amused themselves by playing football behind the trenches. Some of the engineers sometimes planned a way to make hot baths in the trenches, a luxury which neither officers nor men had had for many weeks.

It must be remembered that the trenches are not all cut in long parallel lines. They cross each other at all angles very often. It was very difficult in the battle of the Aisne for the Allies to know where many of the enemy's guns were. The little woods made splendid covers for them, and when smokeless powder was used, it was impossible even for air-scouts to find out where the guns were.

The thing which people outside France heard most of in the early days of the Aisne battle was the bombardment of the great cathedral city of Reims by the Germans.

This city had of course been taken by the Germans in their advance, and re-taken by the French as the enemy fell back, but it was still within reach of the enemy's guns. To the right of the British the greater part of the allied army was still many miles south of the Aisne.

The Germans having been driven out of Reims, which they would have liked to keep, especially for its good position as a railway centre, began to bombard the city. Not only did they shoot on the city, but they seem to have marked out the beautiful Gothic cathedral which was built in the thirteenth century, and was perhaps the loveliest church in France. The Red Cross flag was flying from the cathedral, and the French and German wounded were being cared for in the great spaces of the church, but once more the Germans showed no thought for the wounded. When the bombardment was over the cathedral was terribly damaged, its beautiful stained glass shattered, and the wonderful statues which were its chief beauty horribly broken.

## THE BATTLE OF THE TRENCHES 87

People everywhere were horrified to hear of this useless destruction of so beautiful a building, though, after Louvain, nothing that the Germans might do could really surprise the world.

Meanwhile the battle of the Aisne was going forward, and the British and French were winning their way foot by foot. The soldiers soon got used to creeping forward a short distance and digging new trenches to begin firing again. It was the only way to get on, for the fighting on the Aisne was quite different from the quick victory on the Marne. On the north of the long line of the allied armies, which stretched as far as Compiègne, General Joffre was building up a strong force. He had also collected a strong force, bringing men from Amiens as soon as the Germans drew back from the town, to attack a German body of soldiers at St. Quentin. These soldiers were to protect the right of General von Kluck's long line, and also to guard an important road into Belgium.

The French soldiers attacked the men in the trenches on the hills first with artillery and then at the point of the bayonet. The Germans were driven from the hills into the town of St. Quentin itself, and fought desperately along the streets till they were driven from the town, but they still stayed in the district.

In the trenches at the Aisne the men fought steadily, drenched with heavy rain, while the trenches were inches deep in mud. The infantry was constantly attacking with the bayonet, although the Germans had hoped by their great guns to frighten the men so that attacks by the infantry should be impossible. But the British soldiers were never for a moment afraid, and always glad to charge.

Sir John French himself praised and praised again the splendid courage of his men. He told in one of his despatches how the men of the Northamptonshire regiment crept up within a hundred yards of the enemy's trenches, charged with the bayonet, and drove them up the hill.

The great lesson which the battle of the Aisne was able to teach even Sir John French was that big guns are necessary in long battles such as this was, where both sides have time to entrench themselves so well. So much did General French feel this that he asked for heavy guns to be sent out from England.

Four big howitzers reached him from home on the 23rd September, and these were a great help in the next few days. The Germans made desperate efforts to get forward and take the British and French trenches again, but were always driven off.

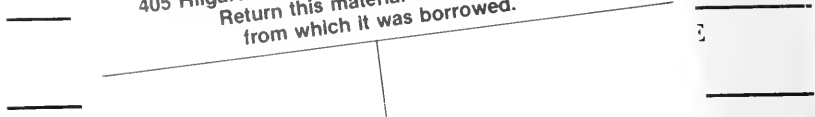
The battle of the Aisne was still going on when Antwerp fell. The great change in the position of the armies was the lengthening of the line to the north, which, when Antwerp fell, had nearly reached the coast. A new battle had really begun here, in which the armies were fighting for the great ports. The Germans were trying to reach and take Calais. But the story of the battle for the coast must be left for another volume.



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