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THE FRENCH ARMY AT VERDUN: SERVING HOT SOUP.

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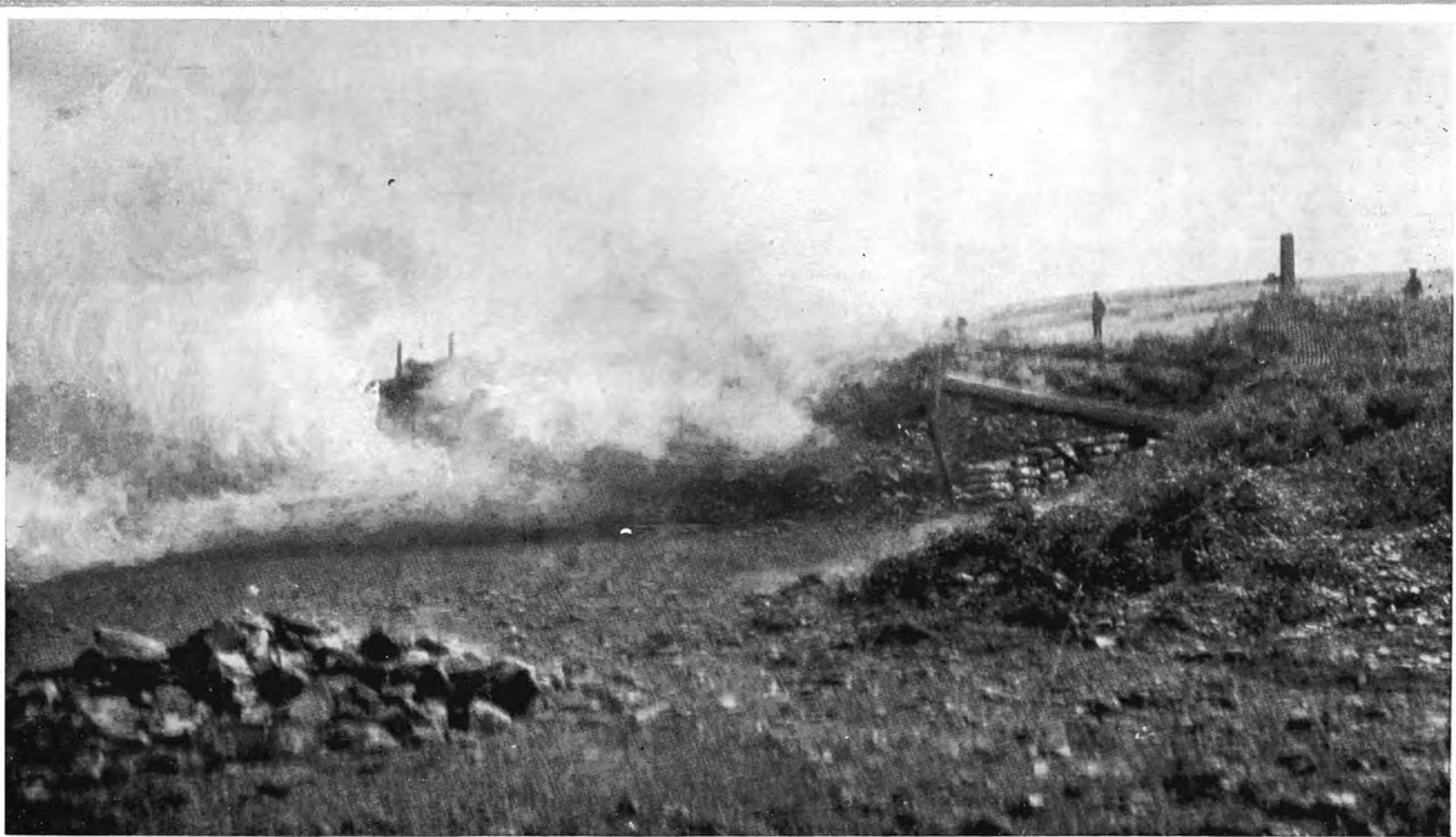
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# The Illustrated War News.



BRITISH HEAVY ARTILLERY IN ACTION "SOMEWHERE" IN THE BALKANS: A BATTERY FIRING SALVOES.

*Original Photograph. Crown Copyright Reserved. Supplied by C.N.*

## THE GREAT WAR.

A NOTABLE factor of the present situation is the placidity of the Allies. The Germans—certainly with enormous forces and energy, probably with immense losses—are forcing the pace of battle at Verdun; they are using great weight and every trick to bring the fight to a successful issue. Yet, though this matter of apparently tremendous importance to the Germans is going on, the Allies, apart from the defence of the fortress, are seemingly unconcerned. There have been, to be sure, a number of local encounters—in the Champagne, in the Argonne, and on our own front, notably at St. Eloi—but these affairs have not been of major weight. They have never called for any great virility, so that, even taking them into consideration, we say that the men on the great Western front have done nothing.

It is an attitude worth considering, for it has some meaning. When the enemy first began his heavy pressure against the Verdun line, it was thought that some counter-move from another part of the Allied front was bound to take place to relieve that pressure. That is the accepted practice of war. When no such counters were made, there were some even among the onlookers (from a distance) who protested against inaction. It was urged that it was the duty—particularly of the British—to make a largish demonstration, and so draw off some of the

German forces that were advancing in such great numbers against General Pétain's army. Ignoring the fact that the large strategy of the West is rather an affair of the French Staff than of the British House of Commons, certain sterling patriots saw in our inactivity yet another example of our failure as a race. However, the British line still refrained from movement; so did the longer French line. The passivity began to impress people, and in time it began to dawn on many that the stoic reticence in the West was an affair of choice. The dawn of knowledge was helped by certain semi-official statements made by the French.

Indeed, it should have been obvious from the beginning of Verdun that the passivity of the Allies under great provocation was (and is) part of a plan, and that that plan signifies wisdom. There are two reasons for holding off attack. One is because such an attack will not pay; the other because reticence will pay better. Strength and weakness have less to do with the matter than these two reasons, because it frequently happens that a weak army will gain more by attacking than it will by remaining quiet; the threat is the thing that counts (if our armies had been weak in France and Flanders we might have seen a number of attacks—a number of small local threats, that is, which would

keep the Germans distracted). If we examine the circumstances, we will find that our reason for not attacking held good. Any distracting attack we may have made might have paid to a certain extent, but it would

[Continued overleaf.]



A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE KING WHEN HE WAS SIX YEARS OLD: A ROYAL MS. IN "LOVELY INK," SOLD FOR THE RED CROSS.

At a Red Cross auction sale held recently at Slough, near Windsor, this letter written by King George when he was a little boy was sold for £6. It was written at Windsor Castle, and was addressed to the Hon. Miss Kerr. "Grandmamma" was, of course, Queen Victoria.



WHERE A BRITISH ARMY IS AWAITING THE DAY OF BATTLE: OFFICERS IN A FIRE-TRENCH NEAR SALONIKA.

Although no general action has been reported as yet from Salonika, there have been some outpost affairs and considerable artillery activity. "For the last four days," wrote Mr. G. J. Stevens recently, "the fighting on the frontier has been confined to a daily exchange of cannonade between the Allies' advanced detachments and the Bulgars and Germans holding the heights in Greek territory south of Ghevveli and

Doiran. While I was visiting our first line of defences yesterday, the sound of the guns was distinctly audible. . . . Apart from the necessity of attacking the enemy each time he descends from the heights with the object of raiding the villages lying in the plain, we also bombard the heights which he occupies, in order to hinder fortification."—[Official Photograph. Crown Copyright reserved. Supplied by C.N.]

not have paid to the extent we hope our next attack will pay. It is becoming increasingly obvious, of course, that our next attack is likely to be of importance—may even be what we call the "big Spring Offensive." We know this not merely because our hopes have set in that direction, but because the matter has been discussed largely both by unofficial critics and prophesied by officially inspired statements. We also know that we have been building up our armies, our munition supplies, and our energies for something momentous through a year and more of steady labour. Now the effort that is to be made is to be a big effort, and, because it is to be so, we must have all the conditions with us—and this is an explanation of our quietness. If we had attacked, even to relieve Verdun, the conditions would not have been entirely in our favour. In the first place, such a movement at such a time would make it one dictated to us by Germany. Germany would have forced us to play to her hand. Germany was ready for counter-strokes—was probably anxious for them. Apart from the fact that she would have made us move before the time-schedule of preparation, she would have made us move to a time-schedule of her own—that is, since she must take Russia into all her calculations, she hoped to make us fight all along the line at a time when she could employ the greatest number of her troops in the West. With the end of winter some of these troops must be ready to face Russia on the move. Germany, then, had all to gain by forcing us to fight her in strength; and she had all to gain because it is obvious that, if we had planned for the spring, we could not possibly be entirely ready. A big offensive is a long and delicate

matter of scheming, and such an attack would not have found us at full strength, but still in the processes of preparation. Again, the weather conditions were against large offensives. Less apparent in the high and firmer hills of the Meuse, the state of the soil along most of the Allied line forbade extensive movements. Particularly in the low-lying *terrain* occupied by the British did the soil forbid great movement. Here the flat lands, the terrible clay surface-soil, and the accumulations of moisture not only made the manœuvring of armed men difficult, but it made the movement of guns, and especially the movement of guns, on a scale necessary for assault, most impracticable. Unless an assault is supported by a sustained advance of field and heavy guns, that assault would have but the smallest penetrative value. Until the ground was hard enough to bear continuous and heavy traffic in guns, waggons, and the rest, it was no good attempting a thrust.

The Allies remained quiet, and are remaining quiet, while the Germans hammer at Verdun, then, because they feel it wisdom to do so, and to keep 'all available reserves in hand for the appointed hour and place, so as not to endanger or limit the chances of success of our general offensive," as the semi-official review of the situation puts it. And it remains to be seen whether they have done right—or rather, whether they are thinking right: whether they have any grounds

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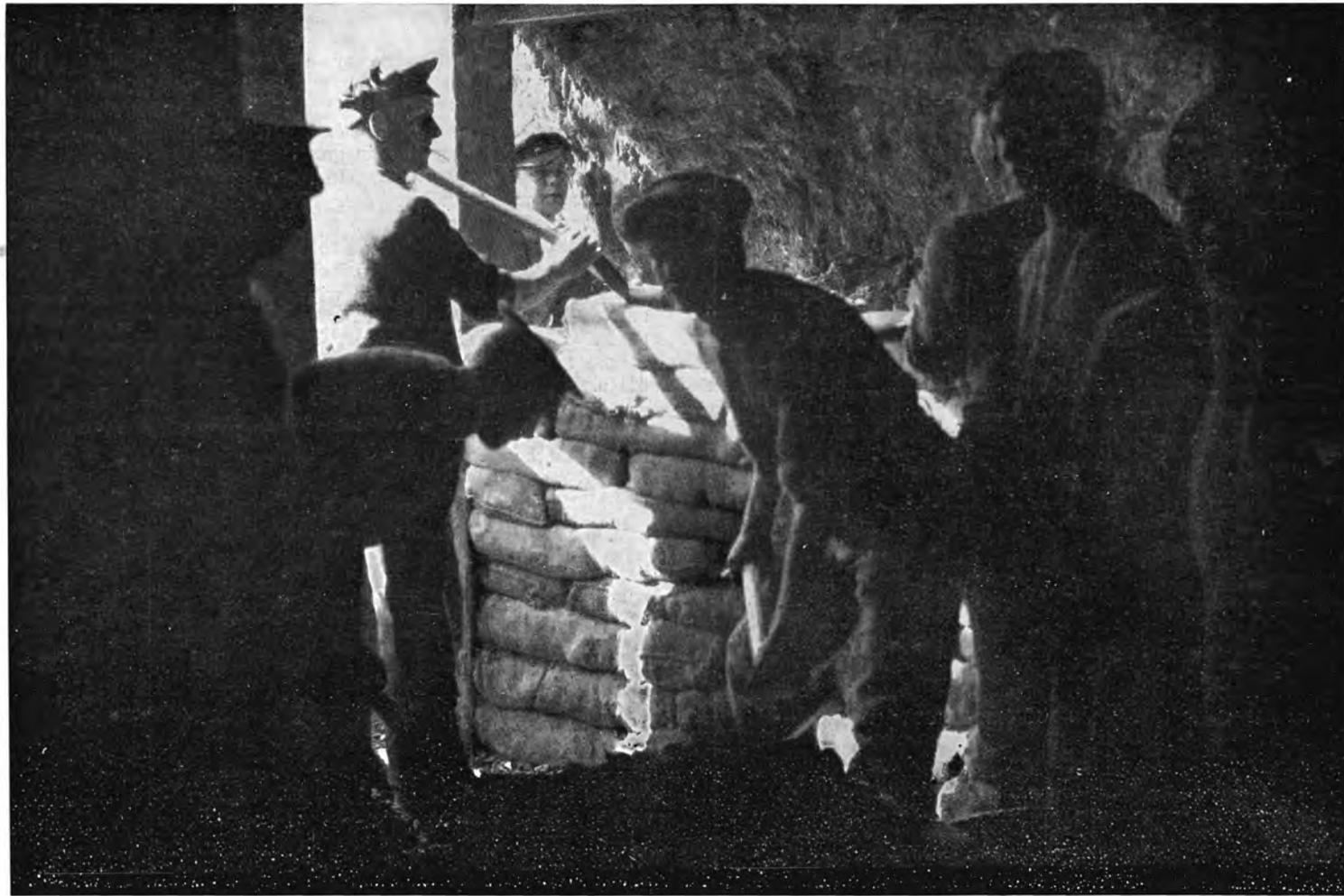
A MULE SECTION, OBVIOUSLY ON GOOD TERMS WITH THEIR ANIMALS: FRENCH TROOPS LEAVING TOULON FOR SALONIKA.

Busy scenes have been witnessed on the quays at Toulon and Marseilles, whence numerous French troops, it is said, have lately embarked for the campaign in the Balkans. The fact that so many troops can be spared for this purpose is a good augury of the situation in France.

French War Office Official Photos.: issued by Newspaper Illus.



FRENCH TROOPS EMBARKING AT TOULON FOR SALONIKA: CARRYING HEAVY KIT TO THE TRANSPORT.



CONSTRUCTED "ACCORDING TO A REGULAR TOWN-PLANNING SCHEME": MINERS WITH THE BRITISH ARMY AT SALONIKA MAKING DUG-OUTS.

Describing the Allied positions at Salonika, a British artillery officer wrote recently: "The defences which we have made are more or less the same sort of things that during months of building with the rifle in one hand we attained to in France; only, of course, constructed under the obvious advantages of being able to put them there before the fight instead of during it. Trenches, wires, redoubts, dug-outs,

etc., are sited, not where the battle has carried us to, but where it will be most profitable for us to carry the battle. Dug-outs are no longer thrown up haphazard, but according to a regular town-planning scheme; nor is it out of mud they are cut, but rock, or earth as hard to destroy, or to pick and shovel, as rock."—[Official Photograph. Crown Copyright reserved. Supplied by C.N.]

for this attitude of optimism. The public, of course, cannot know all things that are going on; but it knows anxiety, and it likes to examine facts as far as it can in order to find out if there are any reasons for solid hope. This is not the first "Spring Offensive" we have heard of, and we are anxious to ascertain whether the hinted promises of this year are likely to prove more substantial than the hinted promises of last year.



AN ENEMY CARTOONIST'S VIEW OF ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS: PRESIDENT WILSON AS ANDROCLUS EXTRACTING THE THORN (A GERMAN HELMET) FROM THE BRITISH LION'S PAW.

This cartoon from a German paper is based, of course, on the well-known story of Androclus and the lion. What the artist intends to convey regarding Anglo-American relations is not very clear. The German title is merely "Der Britische Löwe und Wilson-Androklus."

enlisted; we thought they were fitted out and ready to go into the fighting line at once. We know now that these armies were not really ready by the time we had planned offensives for them, and that they were not equipped. This is part of the common knowledge that gives us greater assurance. We know now that we have increased our reserves of men, so that not only do they hold a greater front in France, but that there are numbers enough to back any great movement. In the matter of men our force has shown a great accumulation of strength. It can not only face the Germans before our line with equal numbers, but it can exceed

Germany's numbers. In the matter of shells, too, we were almost childishly at sea last year. We had only just grasped the significance of the munition question, and we were—all too late—only just beginning to meet the deficiency in artillery and shell supply under which our army laboured. We have spent a year over this task. We have laboured so strenuously that now we can say that in guns and shells we are equal to Germany, and probably ahead of her. In these things, then, we know we are on sounder ground than last year. We have the men and guns to back up our plans of advance.

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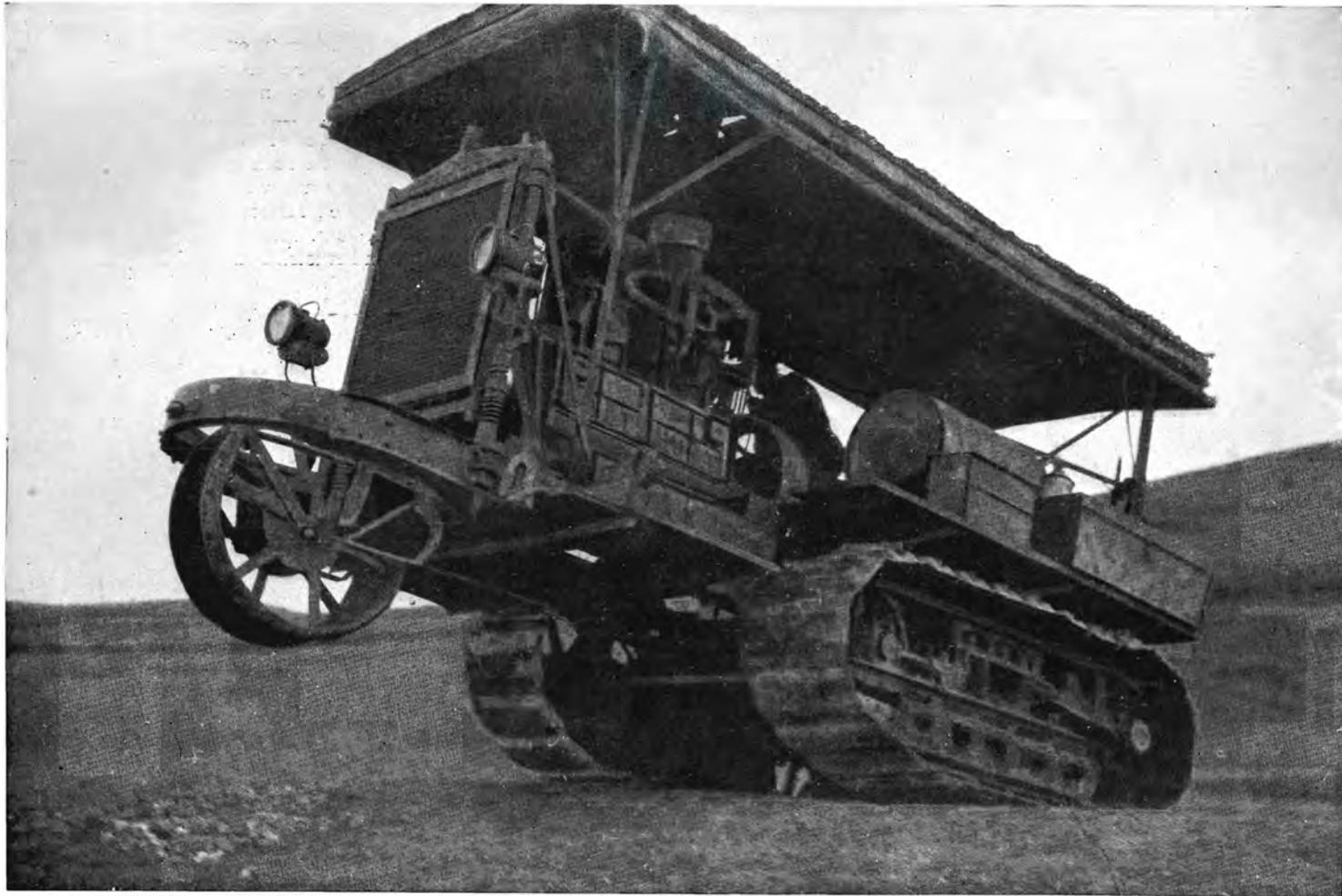
Another factor that helped to put any idea of an offensive out of our heads last year was a certain lack of unity and co-ordination among the Allies—a lack which, coupled with the general weakness in shell supply and the like, set us back inordinately. This was apparent in the fighting that saw the Russians driven back in Galicia and Poland. At a critical moment the Allies realised that all must draw together to come to the aid of Russia. Germany was bent on smashing the Allies in detail, and the Allies realised that they had allowed this by acting in detail. Germany thus was able to dissipate what strength we had by forcing us to do what we could to help the Eastern line. Russia had to be supplied with munitions, a side issue had to be forced at Gallipoli—which, if it drew Turks from the Caucasus, also drew many men from the Western battle front—and in several ways we had to shelve our own plans in order to check the plans of



A WELCOME MOMENT TO THE GALLANT FRENCH TROOPS DEFENDING VERDUN: MEAL TIME IN A TRENCH DUG-OUT. The French troops are well cared for and well fed—a fact which has, doubtless, not been without its influence on the magnificent defence which they have put up at Verdun.

French War Office Official Photo.; supplied by Newspaper Illustrations.

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ON THE SALONIKA FRONT: A LADEN TRANSPORT TRACTOR-VAN TAKING A RISE IN THE GROUND CATERPILLAR-FASHION.

The War Departments of Great Britain and France have from all accounts spared neither pains nor cost in furnishing the Allied army at Salonika with field-service *matériel* of the most up-to-date kinds. In one of our previous issues, for instance, an illustration was given of a steam-driven British artesian-well boring machine at work sinking a shaft for water within the Salonika lines. In the illustration above

is seen a laden transport-van of an up-to-date pattern, moving by means of a flexible endless chain or metal band, studded or grooved to take a firm grip of the ground. The van is apparently negotiating a sharp rise out of a hollow in the ground with a kind of jumping action, owing to the preponderance of weight in rear.—[Official Press Bureau Photograph; supplied by C.N.]

Germany. Well, we have seen our mistake in this. We have, out of our failures, constituted ourselves into a unity. With patience, we have helped to re-arm Russia, as we have continued to arm ourselves. Not only is Russia ready with more men, more guns, and more ammunition than before, but she is ready to act with us. The spring movement will not mean an offensive in the West, or an offensive in the East—things separate; but it will mean an offensive of the Allies, a movement of co-operation. We will not be making attacks local to our theatres, but an attack in giant combination. In these respects, then, our own constructive side of the spring offensive is surer, stronger, and more efficient than last

of March last. To the west, after extraordinarily heavy and costly fighting, armed with such appliances as tear-shells and fire-sprays, the enemy has gained a trifle. The French have fallen back from Béthincourt, and straightened out their line. Assaults on Hill 304 have been crushed, and so have most thrust out against the Mort Homme, though here, after a terrible expenditure of life, a footing has been gained in a short section of one of the least important of the French works. The fight is still raging. A new excess of energy has been infused into the undertaking, and there are prospects of heavier attacks. But already the verdict of Verdun has been written in wastage and frustration. Germany has already lost more



BEFORE THE FIRE AT THE GRÖNINGEN INTERNMENT CAMP: THE TIMBERTOWN FOLLIES' RECREATION HALL (x).

The "Timbertown Follies" are an amateur theatrical company formed among the men of the Royal Naval Division who have been interned at Gröningen, in Holland, since their retreat from Antwerp. They have given many amusing performances in the recreation hall which was recently burnt down.—[Photographs by Illustrations Bureau.]

spring. Practical demonstration of the strength of the Allies in this spring 1916 is to be found in the action at Verdun, and in this week's action as much as anything. The Germans are making an effort larger and longer-sustained than any other of their efforts in the war, yet what have they gained at Verdun? There has been a great deal of fighting on both the east and the west banks of the Meuse this week. On the east the attacks have been repulsed, and the front is practically as it was in the beginning



AFTER THE FIRE AT GRÖNINGEN: THE DÉBRIS OF THE TIMBERTOWN FOLLIES' RECREATION HALL.

there than she will ever gain by victory. During the week the rest of the fronts have been quiet. The Canadians are still fighting a fluctuant battle at St. Eloi, our men having wrenched another crater from the hands of the Germans, only, apparently, to lose it once more. So far the balance is on our side, since we hold three craters to the German two. And then, even what we hold was once German, so that, whatever the enemy has gained back, they are still minus.

W. DOUGLAS NEWTON.

LONDON: APRIL 14, 1916.



**"MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF A GREAT REPUBLIC": FRENCH SENATORS AND DEPUTIES IN LONDON—AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS.**

Twenty-two French Members of Parliament, headed by M. Pichon, and comprising five other Senators and sixteen Deputies, arrived in London on Sunday, April 9, on a visit to this country, as guests of the Franco-British Inter-Parliamentary Committee. Next day they attended a conference at the House of Lords, and, after visiting Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office, were entertained by the King and

Queen to tea at Buckingham Palace. His Majesty welcomed them as "Members of the Legislature of a great Republic with which I rejoice to be united by an intimate alliance of mutual confidence." In the evening the visitors were the guests of the Government at dinner at Lancaster House. During the week they arranged to visit Glasgow, Edinburgh, and the Fleet.—[Photo. by *Newspaper Illustrations*.]



A RUSSIAN MOBILE FIELD SOUP-KITCHEN SUPPLYING TROOPS WHILE ON THE MARCH: A SIBERIA

An American war-correspondent who was in Belgium in August 1914, when the German armies were sweeping across that ill-fated land to attack the British at Mons, described, as one of the things that he was most struck with, how the German mobile field-kitchens which accompanied the battalions as they tramped along, served out hot meals and coffee to the soldiers while they marched, distributing the food as the

men passed along without halting. The detail was commented on at the time in English newspapers as one of the instances of the completeness of German Army organisation, and held up as a model idea for other armies to copy. Possibly in some armies such a thing had not been thought of before: it was not the case, however, with the Russians, whose way of doing exactly the same thing is illustrated above. The



**BATTALION RECEIVING ITS RATIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO WAIT, OR HALT, DURING THE SERVING OUT.**

A travelling field-kitchen to accompany and keep up with marching infantry is one of the commissariat organisations of the Russian service, and one that has proved of incalculable benefit, in especial during the winter campaigns, both recently and in that of the previous year. Every battalion has its own mobile kitchen unit, and, as is seen above, the food distribution, which consists generally of vegetable soup, involves

no checking of pace or delay to the marching of the troops. The men have the canteens or pannikins each soldier carries in his kit filled as they go along, the cooks lading out the steaming broth as fast as the soldiers hand the canteens up. The illustration shows one of the famous regiments of Siberian infantry (as their head-dress proclaims) being supplied.—[Drawn by F. de Haenen.]



**CAPTURED IN GENERAL TOWNSHEND'S ADVANCE TO KUT, AND SINCE CONFRONTING THE RELIEF FORCE: TURKISH TRENCHES AT ES SINN.**

The Es Sinn position on the Tigris, some 7 miles below Kut, lies midway between that town, where General Townshend has been so long besieged, and the scene of the recent victory of General Gorringe's relief force at Falahiyah. General Townshend himself captured the Es Sinn position, during his advance up the river, last September, as recorded in Sir John Nixon's recently published despatch. Describing

it, Sir John writes: "On the left bank the entrenchments extended for 7 miles, linking up the gaps between the river and three marshes which stretched away to the north. The defences were well designed and concealed, commanding flat and open approaches. They were elaborately constructed with a thoroughness that missed no detail."—[Photo. by Topical.]



**A RELIC OF LAST YEAR'S RUSSO-GERMAN CAMPAIGN: A BRIDGE BLOWN UP BY THE RUSSIANS AT NOVO GEORGIEVSK.**

This photograph, which has only just come to hand, shows a great bridge at Novo Georgievsk blown up by the Russians when that fortress fell to the Germans on August 20, 1915. To the left of the wreckage may be seen a temporary footbridge constructed on rows of floating casks. Novo Georgievsk, which is 23 miles by rail north-west of Warsaw, stands at the confluence of the Rivers Narew and

Vistula. An official Russian communiqué, describing the fighting in this district, stated: "Having destroyed two of these forts on the following day (August 20) by fire, the Germans, by a series of sanguinary assaults, occupied their ruins, and afterwards opened fire on our central defence. We blew up a bridge on the Narew and also the abandoned forts in the northern section."—[Photo. by C.N.]



THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST WAR: MEN FROM THE TRENCHES TAKING THE PIANO TO THEIR "THEATRE."

Even the world-tragedy of the war has its moments of mitigation, and, in the brief respites from the tension and the terrors of actual fighting, the brave French soldiers find relief in the cheeriest amusements which circumstances permit. A stage, a pianoforte, a tableau, a dramatic sketch, a comic song, a vivacious dance, all these help to divert the minds of the soldiers, and of the French in particular,

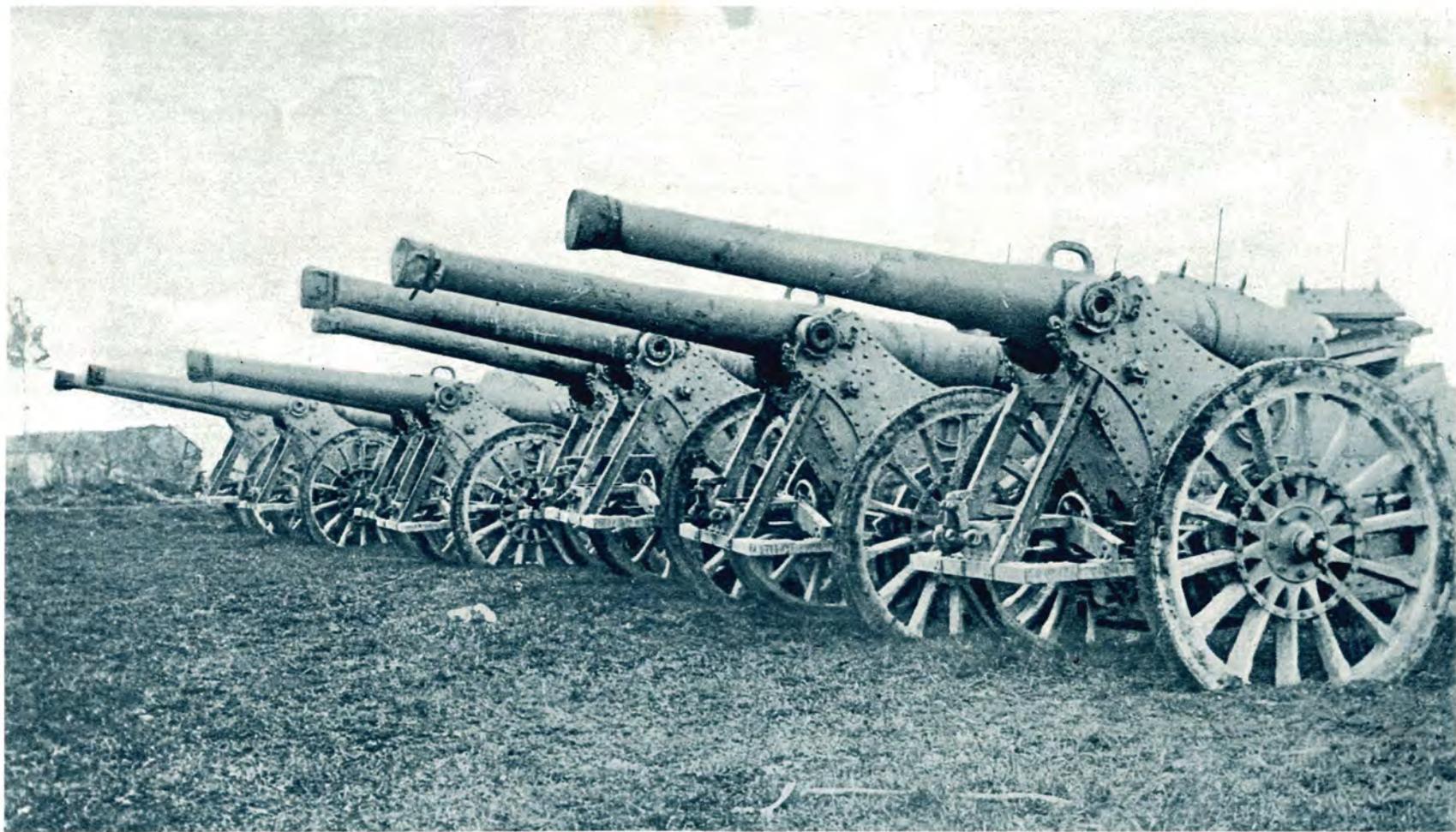
and brace them up for the efforts and the trials which any moment may bring upon them. Like our own gallant Tommies, the French *poilus* are easily pleased, and it is not difficult to understand the relief with which they turn to the stage spectacle or entertainment in their brief intervals of rest. They endure without a murmur "the misery that is heroism because France needs it, because a soldier's

*[Continued opposite.]*



*Continued.* **THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST WAR: "VIVE LA FRANCE!" A PICTURESQUE TABLEAU AT THE OPEN-AIR THEATRE NEAR VERDUN.** honour wills it." And in their lighter moods and easier moments they revel in such amusements as are shown in our photographs. In the first, some men from the trenches near Verdun are seen bringing up a piano to the open-air theatre. The second picture shows the stage of this theatre, with men from the trenches taking part in a tableau, "Vive La France!" The good humour and high spirits

of the French soldier are proverbial, and this object-lesson which drives the fact home to those for whom the soldiers are fighting is all the more remarkable inasmuch as the entertainment is taking place within sound of the death-dealing guns of the enemy.—[French War Office Official Photographs; issued by Newspaper Illustrations.]



AT VERDUN—CARDS UP GENERAL PÉTAİN'S SLEEVE : FRENCH GUNS OF SIEGE-GUN SIZE HELD IN RESERVE.

In addition to its interest as a military subject peculiarly up to date, this illustration comes with special significance at the present moment. It should help to put renewed confidence into any people who may require reassuring as to the resources at the disposal of General Pétaïn at Verdun. The guns are of siege-gun size and calibre, firing extremely destructive high-explosive shells—yet up to March 29 (six

weeks after the first of the continuous German attacks), they had not been required in the defence. They were being kept in reserve, and possibly might not be wanted. The fact throws illuminating light on the French preparedness at Verdun, and it has been semi-officially notified further that the munition supply in reserve is on the amplest scale.—[French Official Photograph; supplied by Newspaper Illus.]



**ITALY'S TITANIC GIANTS IN THE ALPINE CAMPAIGN: THE BIGGEST OF ALL—A 305-MM. (12-INCH) GUN.**

This colossal monster represents the biggest and most powerful of the pieces of heavy ordnance with which the Italians are, if slowly yet surely, battering their way through the Alpine ramparts of the Austrian south-western frontier and overpowering the Austrian mountain forts by long-range shelling. It is a 305-mm. (or 12-inch) gun similar in calibre to the heaviest guns in the modern Italian naval

Dreadnoughts. They are also mounted as the main ordnance on the Italian coast-defence fortifications. Several of the latter have been transported to the Alpine front. It weighs upwards of 50 tons, and fires a shell weighing between 7 and 8 cwt., with a range of upwards of twenty miles—a distance, in direct line, approximately equal to that between London and Gravesend.



DWELLERS IN MESOPOTAMIA: A SERVICE FOR THE TROOPS ON THEIR WAY TO KUT-EL-AMARA.

A curious fact of the war is the remarkable manner in which it has made men realise the actualities of the Bible, and has transformed ideas more or less vague and visionary into tangible fact. It may have been startling to read of fighting near the "Garden of Eden," but even that served the purpose of the realisation of legendary lore. In our picture we see officers and men of the Kut Relief Force

attending a service held in the open air, amid gigantic palms and the luxuriant flora of "The Land between the Rivers." The priest, in orthodox surplice, the troops recumbent on the stretch of sand, the row of trenches in the foreground, are all of to-day, but the "setting" bridges the centuries.—  
[Photo. by Photopress.]



"FIGHTING THEIR BATTLES O'ER AGAIN": A FRENCH BIVOUAC IN A CHURCH IN THE ENVIRONS OF VERDUN.

The picturesque is never far to seek in the Great War, and in our photograph it is present in a marked degree. This little knot of gallant French infantry, resting for the night round a fire in the ruins of a roofless church in the environs of Verdun, make a picture significant indeed. The Rembrandtesque flashes of light and abysses of shadow, the intent faces of the listeners to the story of their comrade's

adventures, the dim outline of sacred images, make up a whole which is in itself eloquent of the dangers past and the strange environment of the men who are fighting side by side with our own for the emancipation of Europe from the toils of militarism. Their expression speaks of determination to persevere until their cause is won.—[French War Office Official Photograph; issued by Newspaper Illustrations.]

## Little Lives of Great Men.

### LXVI.—GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

GENERAL Alexei Nicholaievitch Kuropatkin, commanding the Russian Northern Armies, has a name very familiar to the world since the Russo-Japanese War. He was born in 1848, and was educated with the Cadets of the First Corps, and at the First Military School of the Emperor Paul I. Thereafter he entered the Nicholas I. Academy of the General Staff, which he left with a diploma of the first class. He obtained his Sub-Lieutenant's commission in 1866, his Lieutenancy in 1869, his Captaincy in 1876, and his Lieut.-Colonelcy in 1877. He has been attached to the General Staff since 1874. Four years later he obtained his Colonelcy; in 1882 he was promoted Major-General, and in 1890 Lieut.-General. During that period he had been sent abroad to prosecute scientific studies, had served in Turkestan in 1876-77, and in Bulgaria in 1877-78. In the following year he was Chief of the Asiatic Bureau of the main Staff of the Army, and held at the same time the Professorship of Military Statistics at the Nicholas I. Academy. From 1879 to 1883 he commanded the Rifle Brigade in Turkestan, and for the seven following years he acted as Director of Strategy on the Main Staff. From 1890 to 1898 he was Governor and Military Commander of the Trans-Caspian District, and in the latter year he became head of the Ministry of War. His actual service in the field dates from the year after he had obtained his commission, 1867, when he was with the Bucharja Expedition in Turkestan. In 1874 he was with the French in Algeria; and two years later was again in Turke-



GENERAL ALEXEI NICHOLAIEVITCH KUROPATKIN, COMMANDING THE RUSSIAN NORTHERN ARMIES.

Photograph by E.N.A.

stan, in the Kokand Expedition. In 1877-78 he served in Bulgaria against the Turks, and in 1880-81 he was in Middle Asia in the Akhal-Teke affair. In this campaign he stormed Geok-Tepe, and was twice wounded. During the first part of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5 General Kuropatkin commanded the Russian armies in the field. His honours and decorations are without number. He is a Member of Honour of the Military Academies for Military Jurisprudence, Artillery, and Medicine, and holds the Orders of St. George, St. Stanislas, St. Waldemar, St. Anne with swords and knot, the White Eagle, and Alexander Nevsky. He also holds from France the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, and the Cross of the Roumanian Order of Takova, and the gold medal for courage. He is also entitled to wear Montenegrin, Serbian, Persian, and Japanese decorations; and has held some foreign distinctions which have now ceased to confer honour, and may be left in oblivion. As an author General Kuropatkin has been prolific. He has written on Algeria, and his "Kashgaria" won the gold medal of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. He wrote also the history of General Skobelev's operations in the Russo-Turkish War of 1878, and devoted a special volume to the Siege of Plevna. His "Conquest of Turkomania" includes the period from 1839 to 1899, and is a monumental work. The later part treats of his own personal experience. Since 1901 he has been General of Infantry, and A.D.C. to the Emperor since 1902. Kuropatkin has not always been fortunate, but he assumes his latest command under far better conditions than those of 1905.



**WITH A HANGING SHELL-CASE AS GAS-ALARM GONG: A BRITISH SAP-HEAD.**

These interesting sketches from the British front, made by an officer on the spot, illustrate the peculiar conditions under which modern trench-warfare has to be conducted. In the drawing on the left, which shows a British advanced post, or sap-head, the men are seen wearing the new steel helmets to protect their heads from shrapnel or shell-splinters. Near the rifle leant against the parapet may be seen sus-

**REPELLING A GAS-ATTACK: MASKED DEFENDERS, SOUNDING THE ALARM-GONG.**

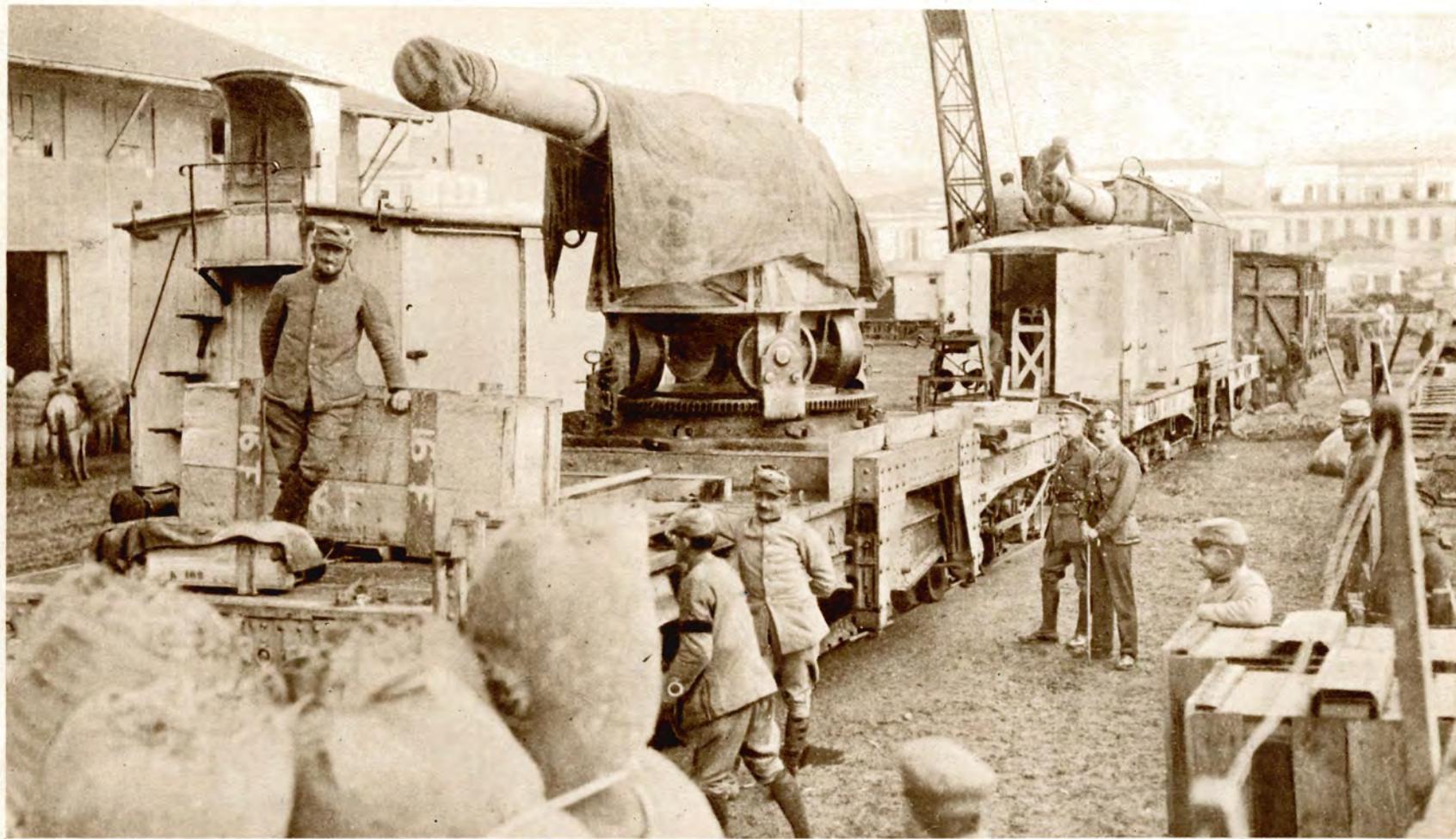
ended an empty shell-case, used as a gong to give the alarm in case of a poison-gas attack. In the right-hand sketch one of the men (in the top right-hand corner) is seen sounding the gong, while his comrades prepare to repel an attack by the enemy. They are wearing gas-masks which completely cover the head, giving them an uncanny appearance.



WITH THE EVER-READY BRITISH FLEET ON THE WATCH: WASHING DOWN THE DECKS AFTER COALING SHIP AT SEA.

The Fleet at sea, wherever it may happen to be at any moment, is kept self-supporting and as a self-contained entity, having its stores, food-supplies, coal, oil, ammunition—everything brought to it to be taken on board on the spot. To such a pitch of complete organisation has everything to do with the Navy been brought that, except for refits or the execution of really serious repairs which cannot con-

veniently be effected at sea, there is no need for any of the ships to visit a dockyard port. Before the war, at manoeuvres, this training was the rule, and the nation is reaping the profits of Admiralty foresight now, and can rest assured that the Fleet is ever at its post and ever ready, with stores and supplies on board and steam up.—[Photo. by S. and G.]



WITH THE ALLIES AT SALONIKA: A FRENCH ARMoured TRAIN BEING MADE UP AT A CAMP DEPÔT.

Two lines of railway are shown on the map as leading north from Salonika to the threatened frontier. One goes towards Lake Doiran, to the north-east. The other passes up the Valley of the Vardar River. A spur line, running parallel with the frontier for a few miles, connects Doiran with the Vardar Valley line. An eastward off-shoot from it runs within a few miles of the Bulgarian frontier in the opposite

direction to Demirhissan and the Bulgarian seaport of Dedeagatch. The Allies at Salonika are making sections of the railways within their district useful, not only for communication purposes and the transport of troops and munitions, but also for enabling armoured trains, mounting heavy guns, to operate at certain points. One such train is seen in the making at Salonika.—[Photo. by Topical.]



**AIRCRAFT-FIGHTING ON THE FRENCH FRONT: ANTI-AIRCRAFT MOTOR UNITS, AKIN TO THAT WHICH DESTROYED**

Two French anti-aircraft motor units are seen in action with enemy aeroplanes. It was just such a unit as either of these, a gun-car and an ammunition-car, which brought down Zeppelin "L 77," at Révigny, in the Argonne, last February; with an additional searchlight-car for night duty. The nearer gun here seen is in the midst of its firing. One of the two men on the car beside the piece holds the traversing wheel by means of which the gun is kept pointing on its target. His companion, with a range-finding instrument held horizontal at his eye, is



PELIN "L 77," IN ACTION WITH ENEMY AEROPLANES WHILE PROTECTING AN INFANTRY COLUMN.—DRAWN BY F. DE HAENEN.

telling off the rapidly changing ranges as the German aeroplane aimed at flies. Close in rear of the gun-car stand the fuse-setter and loader; and, running up with a shell from the ammunition-car to the right rear, is another of the gun-team. Other members of the squad are getting out ammunition as rapidly as possible. The subaltern in charge is seen watching the shell-bursts with field-glasses, while left of the gun, in the centre of the road, another man, with a range-finder on a tripod, is checking the ranges given by the man beside the gun.

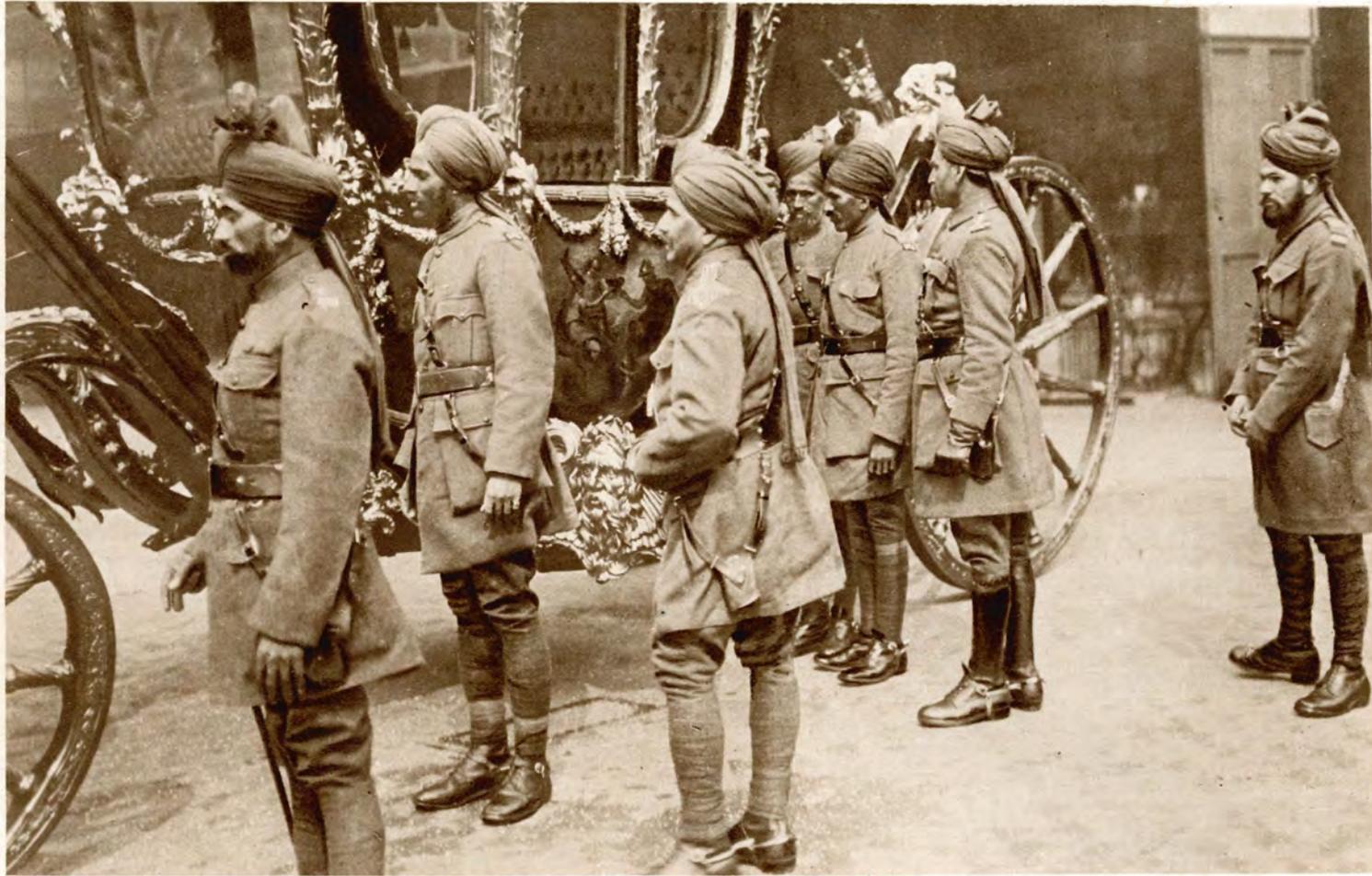


**COMMANDER OF THE KUT RELIEF FORCE: GENERAL SIR GEORGE GORRINGE.**

In the recent battle on the Tigris General Gorringe, now in command of the Kut Relief Force, operated on the left bank, and General Keary on the right bank. The War Office stated on April 6: "The Tigris Corps, under the command of Lieut.-General Sir G. Gorringe, who has succeeded General Aylmer, attacked the enemy's entrenched position at Umm-el-Hannah at 5 a.m. on the 5th. . . . The third line was

**COMMANDING ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE TIGRIS: GENERAL H. D. KEARY.**

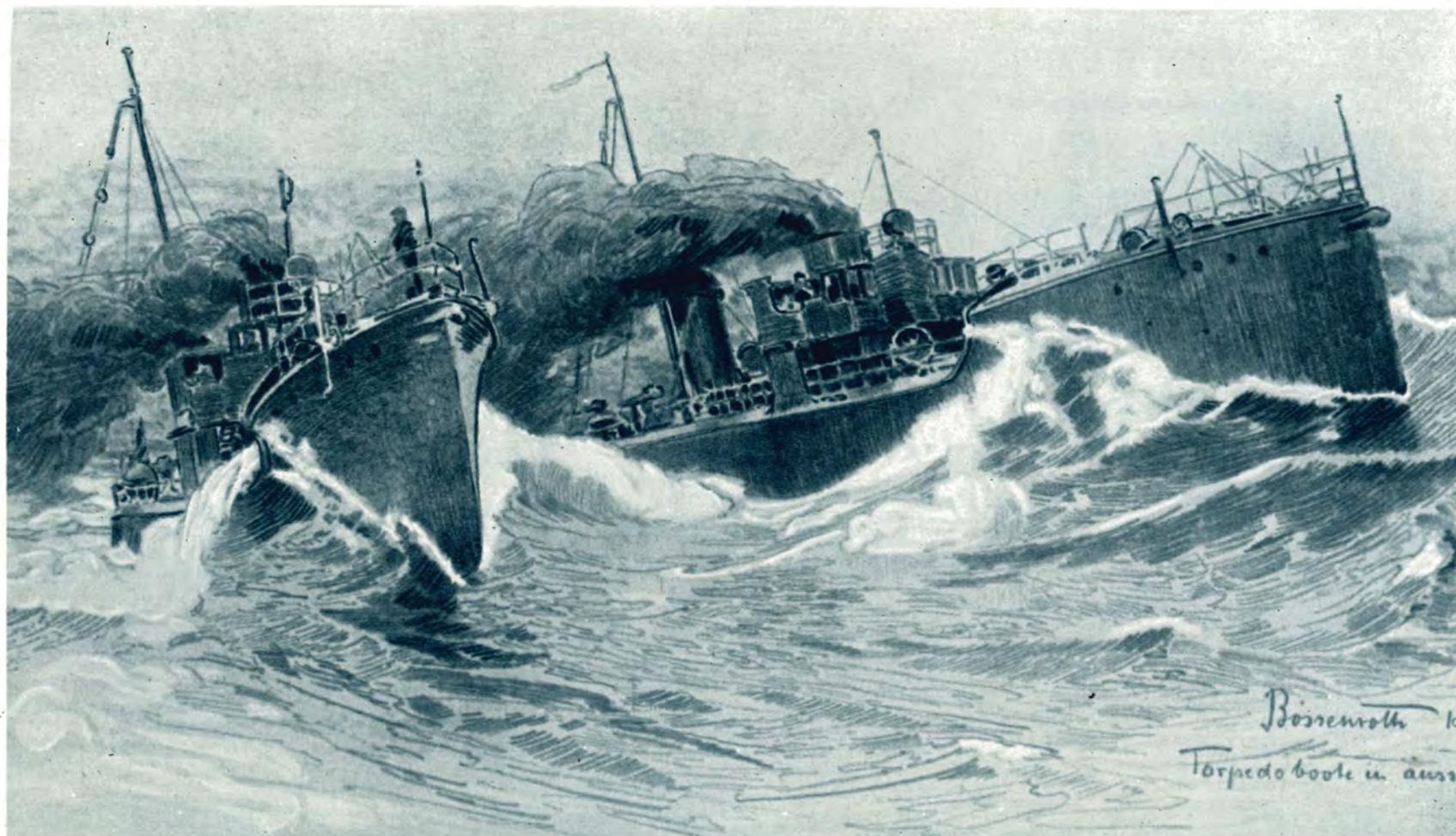
captured by 6 a.m. . . . The 13th Division continued their victorious advance, and by 7 a.m. had driven the enemy out of his fourth and fifth lines. . . . In the meantime, on the right bank, the 3rd Division, under General Keary, captured the enemy's trenches opposite the Falahiyah position. . . . General Gorringe carried the Falahiyah position."—[Photos. by Central Press and Elliott and Fry.]



FROM THE FRONT, TO VISIT THE KING: INDIAN CAVALRY OFFICERS VIEWING THE STATE COACH AFTER THEIR RECEPTION.

As related in a previous issue, in which were shown a number of Indian native cavalry officers in London, riding in Rotten Row, while on a week's leave from the Front, parties of these officers are being brought over in succession by special arrangement to enjoy the relaxation of a little sightseeing in the capital of the Empire, and to pay their respects to the King at Buckingham Palace. His Majesty

personally receives each party at the Palace—a form of honour that Indian officers, whose devoted loyalty to their Emperor is a marked feature of their character, estimate and appreciate above all others that can be bestowed on them. On the occasion of their visit the officers are specially conducted over parts of the Palace likely to interest them.—[Photo. by Alfieri.]

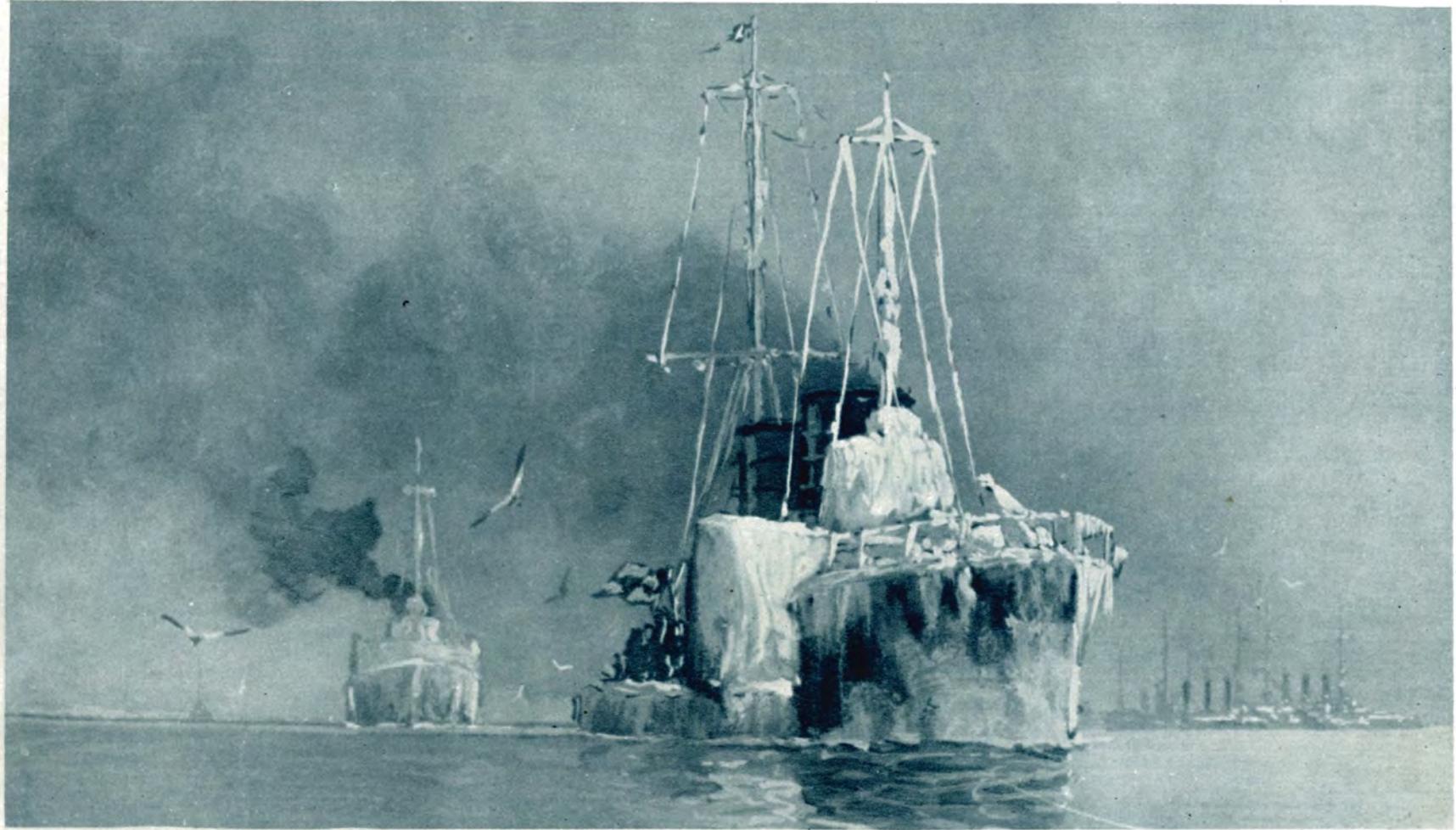


**REVERSING THE USUAL PROCESS: GERMAN DESTROYERS GOING FULL-SPEED AFTER AN ALLIED SUBMARINE—ACCORDING TO A GERMAN ARTIST.**

This German conception of German torpedo-boats chasing an Allied submarine suggests a reversal of the usual order. Naval experts consider it not unlikely, however, that the German fleet may yet attempt to act on the offensive. Thus Commander Carlyon Bellairs, discussing probable events in the Baltic, writes: "Fighting in the Baltic is surely impending with the break-up of the ice. . . . The

German fleet always subordinates its operations entirely to the Army. . . . In the Baltic the problem is entirely reversed. The German left depends on the German fleet. It is, in fact, in the air if it cannot possess the coast, and Riga is a vital objective. The psychology of German militarism is little understood if we imagine that, smarting under the defeat of last August, another attempt will not be

*[Continued opposite.]*



RETURNING WITH "COLD FEET"? GERMAN TORPEDO-BOATS ARRIVING HOME AFTER AN ICY CRUISE—FROM A GERMAN ARTIST'S DRAWING.

*Continued.*

made. It is assumed that the defeat was due to the mine-fields at the entrance of the Gulf of Riga. The melting of the ice will sweep the mine-fields away, and everything has been prepared at Libau and Windau for a fresh campaign. . . . It is obvious, therefore, that the psychological moment for the simultaneous offensive in the Baltic is when Germany has definitely committed her fleet to a non-naval

objective in the Gulf of Riga. . . . If . . . a way is cleared for adding very considerably to the submarine force in the Baltic, not only will we add immeasurably to the difficulties of German naval co-operation with the Army, but we will be able to cause a very serious hold-up of essential supplies for the German Army and people."



THE BRITISH SUBMARINE MENACE IN THE BALTIC: GERMAN TROOPS AND STORES FOR HINDENBURG BEING TRANSPORTED BY CANAL.

It would be interesting to learn the locality which the above illustration (reproduced from a German paper) is supposed to show. The German letterpress beneath the picture says that it is "based on a photograph" and shows "German troops in the Eastern War Area being transported on one of the Waterways." That the water surface shown is apparently entirely free from ice is a curious detail, for

at this season the canals and harbours along the Baltic seaboard are normally still ice-bound. When the Baltic is free from ice the coast-canals are the only means by which the enemy can move army stores and troops on the water—as was the case last autumn—owing to the activities of British submarines, which only ceased on the Baltic becoming impossible of navigation at the outset of the winter.



**THE GENERAL EMPLOYMENT OF SKIS IN THE WINTER WAR ON EUROPEAN FRONTS: AN AUSTRIAN DETACHMENT HALTING.**

The ski has proved itself a highly practical and very convenient means of locomotion over the snow, for outpost and reconnoitring work in particular, during the winter operations on several European fronts, East and West. It has been largely made use of by the Germans on the Russian frontier, by both French and Germans in the Vosges, and by both Italians and Austrians in the Alpine campaign. In

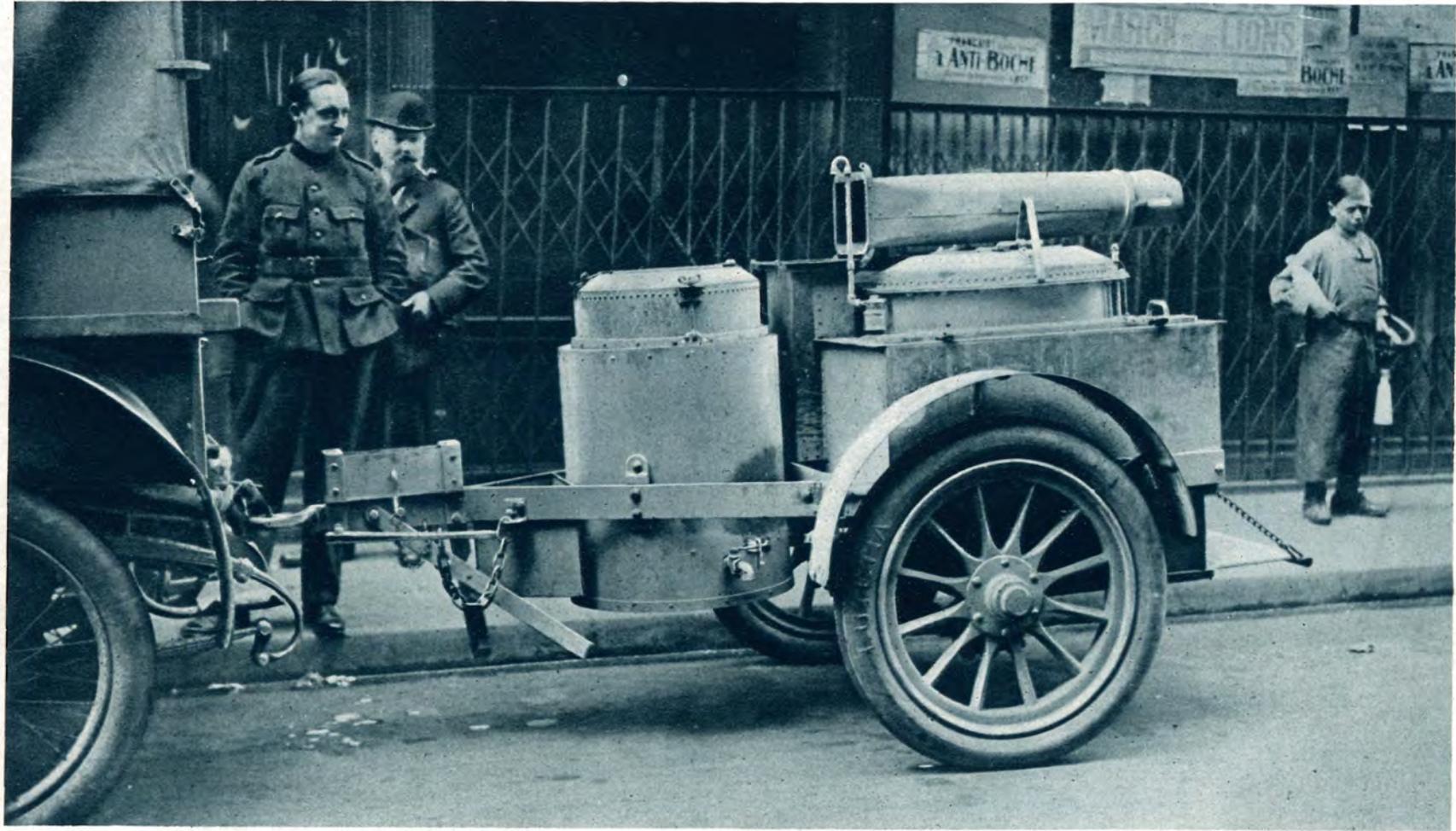
previous issues we published photographs showing troops of the different armies using skis in all the above-named areas—on the plains, in forests, on the mountains; while engaged in actual combat on scouting expeditions, while on ambulance duty, on patrol service at the outposts. An Austrian infantry detachment in the Alps, wearing skis, is seen above while making a short halt.



**SIGN OF THE COST OF THE WAR TO AUSTRIA: AN ENEMY BASE-HOSPITAL ON THE TYROLESE FRONT.**

The Austrian casualties are not regularly published, but it is understood that in sum they can hardly fall short of two-thirds of the German total, which is now believed to amount to upwards of three millions. A year ago it was estimated by persons in a position to obtain reliable information that Austria had lost upwards of a million men in the Galician campaigns against the Russians and the

Serbian disaster of December 1914, including practically all the First Line Army. Since then, in addition to battlefield casualties, sickness of virulent types, due to the hardships of the campaign and the notoriously inferior physique of the Austrian Second-Line levies, has been widespread among the Austrian troops, particularly among those in Serbia and those taking part in the winter operations in the Alps.



**DRAWN BEHIND A MOTOR-CAR: A TRAVELLING COFFEE-"KITCHEN" FOR THE BELGIAN ARMY IN THE FIELD.**

Recognising the value of hot coffee as a stimulant and support, the Belgian Army has adopted the portable apparatus which we illustrate. It consists of a travelling "kitchen" which can be attached to an automobile, and can be transported at the rate of 50 kiloms. per hour, without the contents suffering in any degree by the rapid pace at which it is carried. The invention is one more proof of the care

and thought which are given in this war to any and every means by which the lot of the troops may be made as comfortable as the inevitably crude and hard conditions of war will permit. The arrival of this new portable kitchen is sure of a welcome from the men whose lot while on active service it will help to mitigate.—[French War Office Official Photograph; supplied by Photopress.]



**IN THE ENEMY'S DEFENCE LINES BEYOND THE ISONZO VALLEY: AN AUSTRIAN TRENCH LOOK-OUT MAN'S POST OF OBSERVATION.**

The Austrian trench-sentry seen in the illustration at his post is keeping watch across the stretch of ground in front towards the Italian lines, in a specially constructed post on top of the crest-line of the trench roofed over in order to afford head-cover against stray shrapnel-bullets. The sand-bags on the roof and at the sides are sufficient to protect a man from such projectiles and splinters in ordinary

circumstances. He is reasonably safe, provided a shell does not burst near by, in which case the momentum of the bullets and fragments of metal would make short work of the head-covering structure. The narrow loop-hole between the sand-bags in front, while allowing for observation, should safeguard the look-out man from everything but the direct entry of a sniper's lucky bullet.—[Photo. by Continphot.]



**WIRE-NETTING BASKETS, PACKED WITH SAND-BAGS, AS PARAPET REVETMENTS: AN AUSTRIAN DEVICE FOR CONSTRUCTING TRENCH BREASTWORKS RAPIDLY.**

The wire-netting baskets, packed with sand-bags, shown above are an Austrian Army pattern for enabling parapets to be built up compactly on hard or stony ground and places where there is difficulty in building artificial cover rapidly. The wire baskets are light and easy to transport, and the sand-bags can be filled and stowed inside at the nearest suitable place to where they are wanted for cover, and easily carried

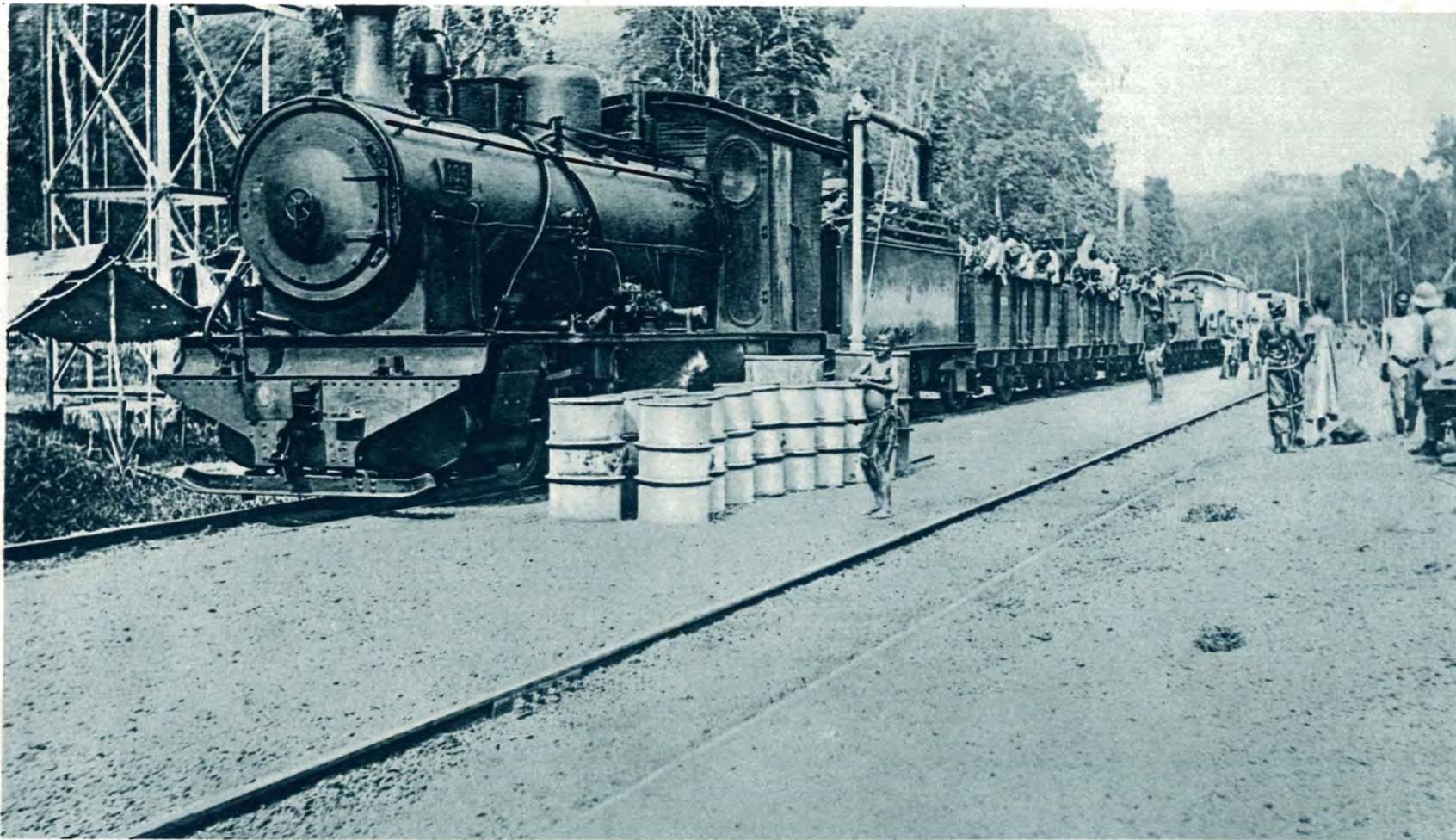
to the spot. On the rocky Alpine plateaus this means of running-up a line of hasty entrenchments has proved very serviceable, the sand-bags being filled at the nearest patch of soft ground in rear. In the illustration a narrow embrasure has been formed in the upper tier of sand-bags through which a machine-gun is pointing.—[Photo. by Continphot.]



INFORMED THAT "THE KAISER HAS CAPTURED GENERAL KITSCHENER"! CAMEROON NATIVES CONSTRUCTING A GERMAN WIRELESS STATION.

The photograph here reproduced is of peculiar interest, as it was captured from the Germans in Cameroon. The German title of the photograph reads: "Wireless Station, Kamina. During the building of the first wall." When completed, it is said this station was in direct communication with Berlin. An instance of the nonsensical lies about the war with which the Germans used to "stuff" the natives

came to light recently in the shape of a telegram addressed by the late German Governor of Cameroon to local magistrates, giving "news" which he authorised them to publish. "The Kaiser," we read, "is bombarding the largest French city, where the Governor of the French lives. . . . The Kaiser has captured General Kitchener, whom the English regarded as their best commander, together with 10,000 soldiers."



**IN CONQUERED CAMEROON: A GERMAN TRAIN CAPTURED BY THE FRENCH CONVEYING BRITISH SUPPLIES TO THE FRONT.**

It was announced recently that General Aymerich has been appointed French Commissioner-General in Cameroon. Regarding the above photograph, only just to hand, it may be recalled that, during the victorious Franco-British operations, much German railway material was captured. For example, after the attack on Buea, then the seat of the German Government, it was stated: "A column . . . occupied

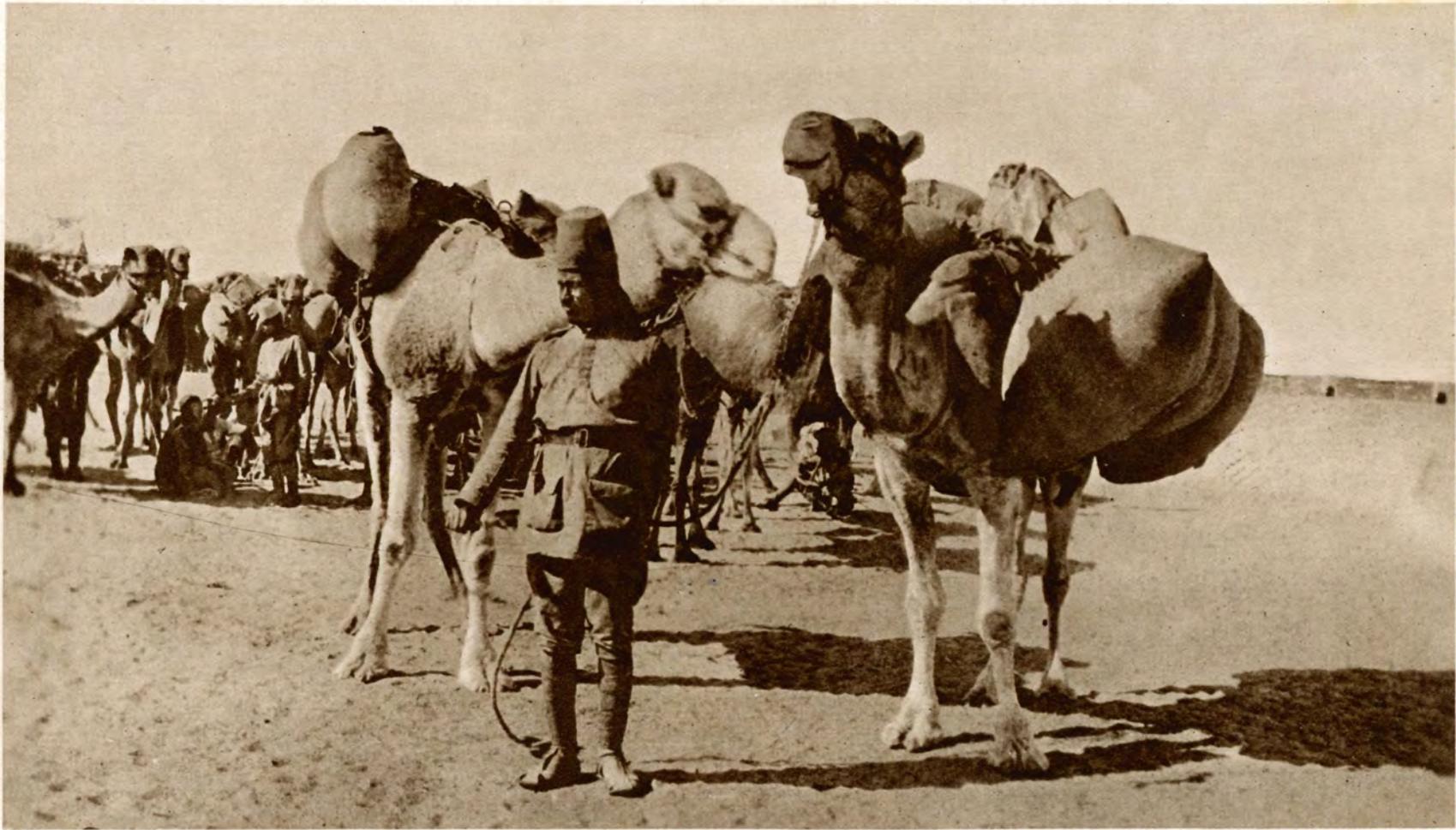
Mujuka, on the railway line 50 miles north of Bonaberi . . . By December 10 the whole of this railway . . . was in our hands." Lord Kitchener said on February 15: "The campaign in the Cameroon may be regarded as virtually concluded. It is greatly to the credit of General Dobell and General Aymerich, commanding the French forces . . . that this difficult country has been cleared of the enemy."



WITH THE ARMY FOR THE DEFENCE OF EGYPT: INCIDENTS AND SCENES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

Photograph No. 1 shows an armoured train in Egypt patrolling near the Suez Canal, with trucks protected by sand-bag breastworks. It was in Egypt, after the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, that the armoured train made its first appearance in the Western Hemisphere, Sir John Fisher being the organiser of the scheme. The idea came, in the first place, from America, where, during the War of Secession,

armoured trains were originally used. Photograph No. 2 shows a gun detachment, one of the light field-gun batteries of the Egyptian Army. In No. 3 a railway bridge is seen under military guard by Egyptian troops. The sentry is on top of the bridge and men of the picket below. In No. 4 native soldiers on board a transport are seen just before meal-time, while rations are being cooked.



**CARRYING STORES FOR THE TROOPS IN MESOPOTAMIA: A CAMEL COMMISSARIAT-TRAIN IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE PERSIAN GULF.**

The camel is the principal beast of burden for transport purposes all over the East, and is being largely employed in the war areas at the present time. In earlier issues, it has been shown how the camel is being used for the commissariat service of the troops in Egypt. Above we see part of a camel-train in Mesopotamia, where camel transport is employed in the neighbourhood of the base of operations on

the Persian Gulf, for carrying army stores between intermediate depôts. As a transport animal, the camel covers the ground at an average pace of 2 or 2½ miles an hour, marching from 16 to 25 miles a day, and carrying a load of about 380 lb., equivalent to two mule-loads per animal. It requires watering, as a rule, every three or four days, drinking twelve gallons at a time.



**"A GERMAN AEROPLANE FELL IN OUR LINES": WRECKAGE OF AN AVIATIK BROUGHT DOWN AMONG FRENCH BARBED-WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS.**

Such statements as that quoted above have long been a commonplace of the French communiqués, as well as evidence of the untiring efficiency of the French airmen and anti-aircraft artillery. It is not necessary to search far back for an example. Taking up the paper of the day, we read, in the official reports from Paris: "This morning one of our pilots brought down a German aeroplane, which fell in

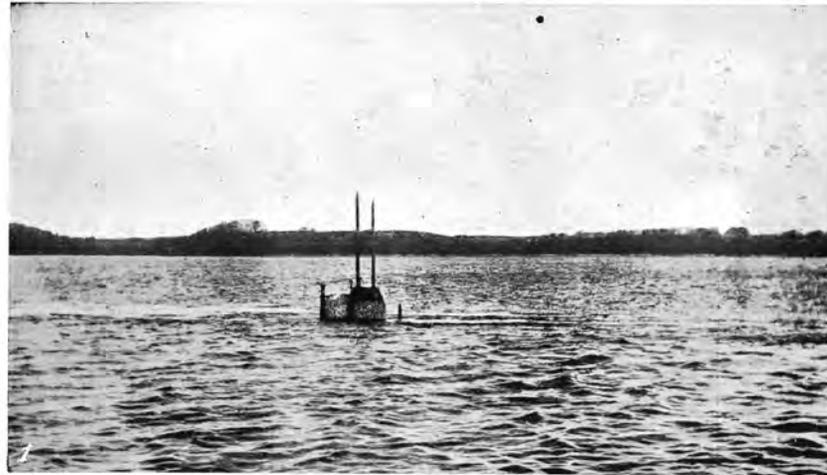
our line near Badonvillers. The two enemy airmen were killed in their fall." The photograph indicates in vivid pictorial form the kind of fact that lies behind these laconic announcements—a crash to earth by a hurtling vertical descent—a tangled mass of wreckage, from which two mangled corpses are with difficulty extricated. That is what "an aeroplane brought down" generally means.—[Photo. by Topical.]



AIR-TORPEDOES AT VERDUN: A FRENCH SOLDIER PREPARING TO FIRE ONE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF AN OFFICER.

The French make great use of the air-torpedo, a large type of trench-bomb so named from the tail-fins which steady its flight. Our photograph, which gives a remarkably good idea of a French position near Verdun, shows a soldier just fitting one of the big missiles into the mortar used for firing it, which is pointed upward at a high angle so as to clear the ridge above. At this spot the German trenches

were less than 200 yards away. An officer is seen standing to the left supervising the loading of the mortar. The excellent relations between the French officers and their men have been the subject of admiration among all who have had opportunities of watching the heroic armies of France at work in the defence of their country.—[Photo. by Illustrations Bureau.]

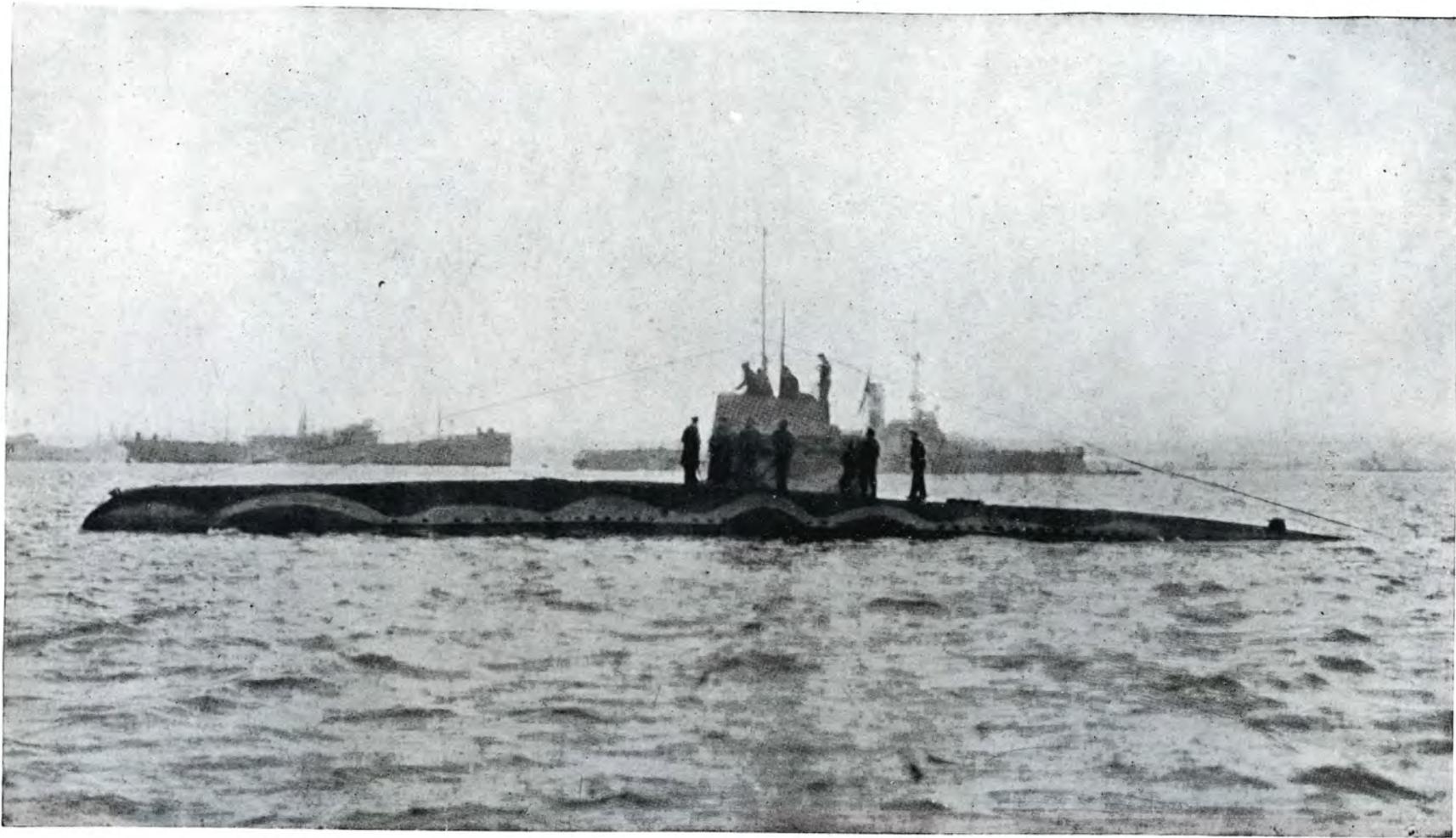


PROTECTIVE-COLORATION DESIGNS EMPLOYED BY GERMAN SUBMARINES: MOTTLED CONNING-TOWERS AND UPPER WORKS FOR A RUFFLED SEA.

That so astute and cunning a people as the Germans have shown themselves in war, alike on land and sea, would adopt colour-protective schemes for their submarines was, of course, only to be expected. Various of their methods are shown on this page. Illustration No. 1 shows a German submarine with a mottled, or speckled, pattern painted on the conning-tower so as to resemble the wash of a lumpy

sea with the surface ruffled in a light breeze. In No. 2 is seen an attempt to reproduce the effect at a little distance of a wave formation; of a wave surging past a submarine's partially submerged hull. Nos. 3 and 4 are protective-coloration designs kindred to No. 1, the fourth colour-scheme being specially for a sunny day with cat's-paws rippling the water. On the next page is seen a submarine at full

*[Continued opposite.]*

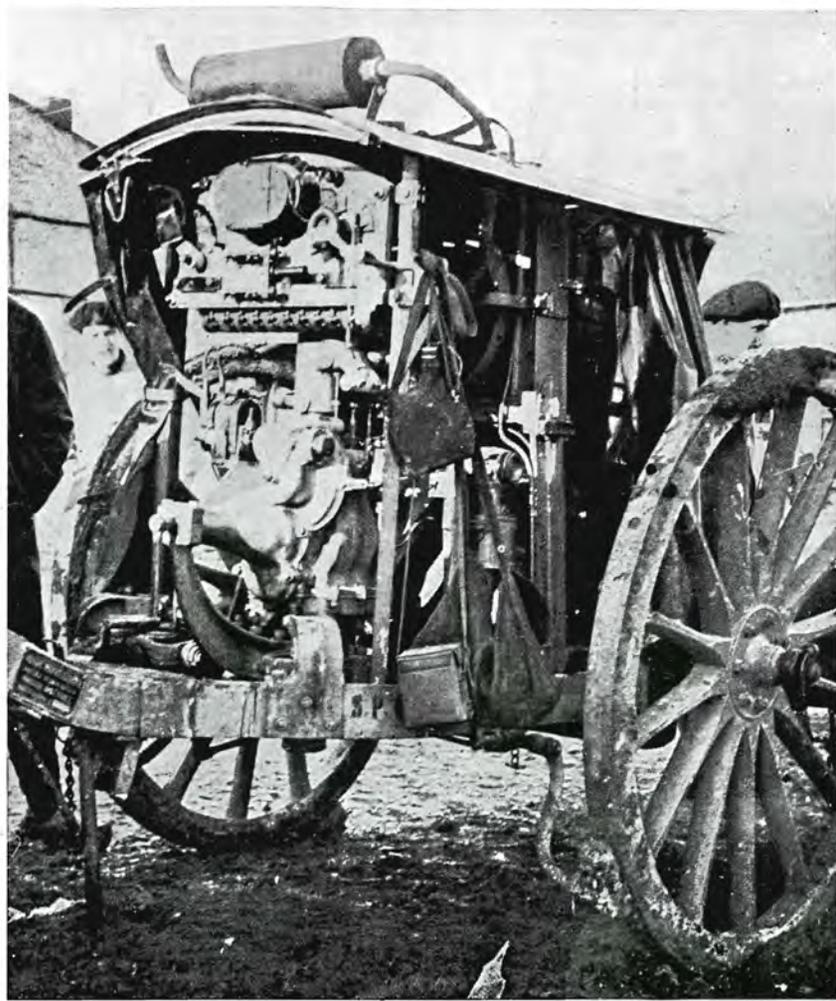


A PROTECTIVE-COLORATION SCHEME USED IN GERMAN SUBMARINES TO DECEIVE AS TO SPEED: WAVES PAINTED ALONG THE HULL.

*Continued.*

length which has her hull painted, as previously noted in regard to No. 2 on the page facing, with the representation of a wave in motion, the idea being obviously to puzzle and deceive the submarine's intended victim, or an attacking ship, as to the rate of the "U" boat's speed. Another German submarine disguise, sometimes used in attacking merchantmen, which has been recorded, is to erect a

dummy funnel and sham masts and sails on the upper works, with a sham fore-castle and stern, and of course, false national colours. It is noteworthy that all these devices are of recent adoption. The earlier boats were simply painted grey all over, with or without an identifying number. It is not surprising that the Germans should avail themselves of the dubious axiom, "All's fair," etc.—[Photos, by Alfieri.]



A FRENCH VERDUN SEARCHLIGHT: INTERIOR OF AN ELECTRICITY-GENERATING VAN. The mobile van which contains the electricity-generating mechanism and intricate installation of engine-apparatus required for one of the types of searchlights in use by the French at Verdun and elsewhere, is seen in detail above. For the exhibition of the complex interior the ends and sides of the vehicle are shown open.—[French Official Photograph; supplied by Newspaper Illustrations.]



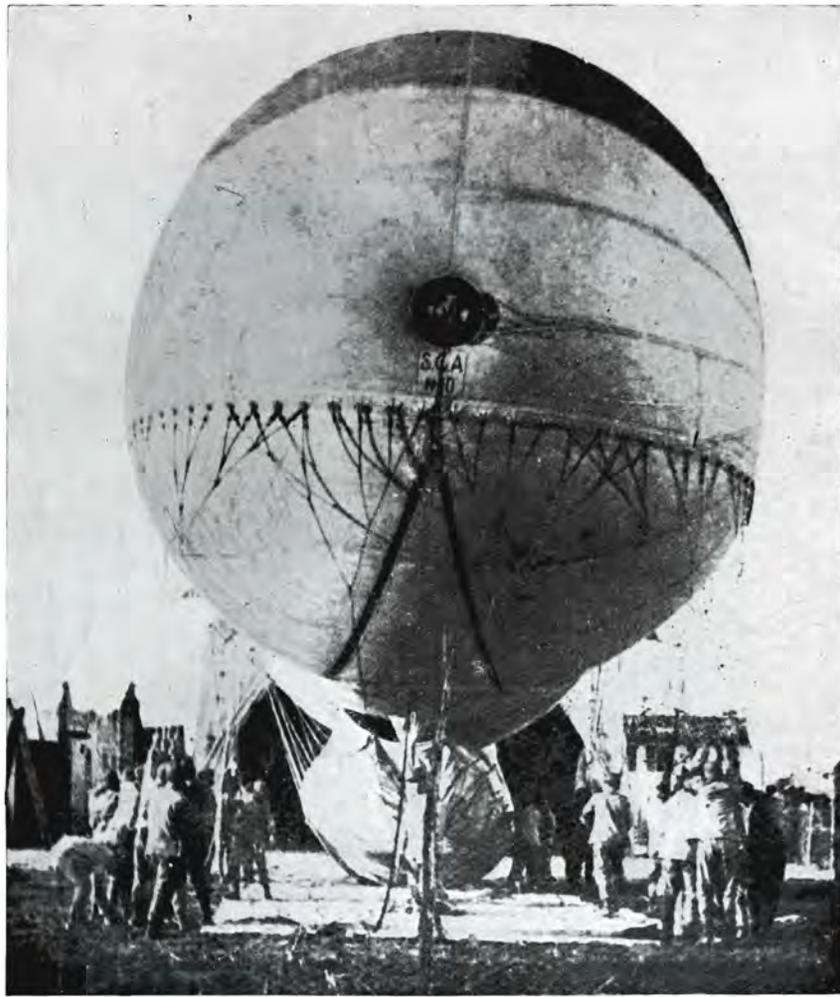
A FRENCH VERDUN SEARCHLIGHT: THE REFLECTOR ON ITS TRIPOD STAND. In the illustration, trench-helmeted French soldiers at Verdun are seen examining the huge reflector of one of the searchlights which have proved of immense utility in showing up massed Germans during night-attacks. The tripod-stand on which the reflector is mounted is of the kind in general use along the trenches where searchlights are placed.—[French Official Photograph; supplied by News. Illus.]



AT VERDUN : A FRENCH FIELD SEARCHLIGHT ON ITS TRAVELLING CARRIAGE, WAITING TO BE MOVED TO THE FIRING-LINE.

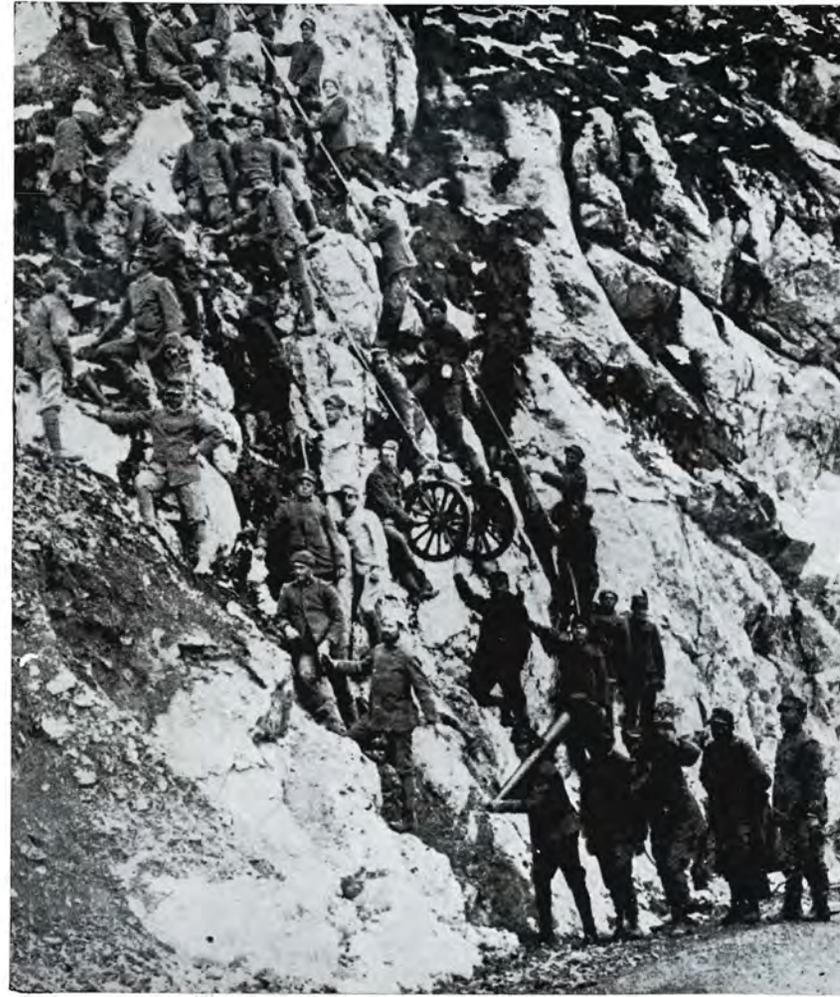
The French Army has been very completely and efficiently equipped and provided for in every detail connected with its mobile field searchlight sections. Alike is this the case with regard to the personnel and the general organisation of the units, and with the departmental working arrangements in the field, and, in particular, as to the practical and effective types of special apparatus in service, which are

constructed with the highest technical skill. The efficacy and power of the searchlights used by the French have proved of exceptional value to the defence in night actions at Verdun. It was one of the mobile searchlight units, attached to a motor anti-aircraft gun-section, which "spotted" for the successful gunners who brought down Zeppelin "L 77."—[French Official Photograph; supplied by News. illus.]



THE ITALIAN FRONT: A "KITE" OR "SAUSAGE" BALLOON READY TO ASCEND.

The "sausage-balloon" as the French call this special design of captive-balloon, is used by the Italians for artillery spotting among the Alps and for keeping under observation enemy movements behind ridges of intervening high ground. It is called the "Kite Balloon" by the British. Its steadiness aloft, irrespective of variable air-currents among the mountains, makes it indispensable.—[Photo. by S. and G.]



THE ITALIAN FRONT: MAN-HAULING A BATTERY UP A MOUNTAIN.

Never before in the history of war, it is surely safe to say, can such amazing feats of artillery transport have been witnessed to compare with what the Italians have been doing and are doing. They have hauled whole field batteries as well as guns of big calibre up the steep Alpine mountain sides—in cases, up all but sheer precipices. The illustration speaks for itself.—[Photo. by S. and G.]



H.M.S. "ANONYMOUS" IN THE CENSORED OCEAN! A BRITISH WAR-SHIP IN AN ICY SEA—"SOMEWHERE."

Our photograph will convince our readers that a man in the Navy must get accustomed to being baked or frozen, according to the longitude and latitude in which his ship may find itself, and he must be prepared to face with a light heart even greater varieties and vagaries than the climate of England can provide. Our picture is of "H.M.S. Anonymous," ploughing her way through broken ice, somewhere

in the "censored" ocean. The scene is not without its picturesque side, and the progress of the vessel is not without its risks. But the British sailor is a jovial soul, and well content to take things, even icy waters, as they come, in the pursuit of his duty. The photograph is a racy record of one phase of life in the Navy.—[Photo. by Illustrations Bureau.]



A POLICEMAN-HERO: SIR EDWARD HENRY HANDING THE D.C.M. TO A CONSTABLE WHO HAS DONE GOOD SERVICE AT THE FRONT.

The shrewd and stalwart men of the Police Force have enlisted in large numbers, and, with admirable patriotism, have changed their duties as a civil force for those of soldiers in the field. Our photograph shows the famous and popular Commissioner of Police in the Metropolis, Sir Edward Richard Henry, K.C.B., Extra-Equerry to H.M. the King, decorating P.C. William Edwards, at Kensington Station, with

the Distinguished Conduct Medal, which was awarded to him for the courage which he displayed at the Front, in capturing a farmhouse containing a machine-gun which was harassing our troops. Constable Edwards fought at Ypres. Then, time-expired, returned to London to rejoin the Police. He is attached to his old station.—[Photo. by Illustrations Bureau.]

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ILLUSTRATIONS OF PASSENGERS ON  
BOATS FROM THE STRICKEN SHIP, THE  
DAMAGE DONE TO THE SHIP, AND  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABOARD HER.

CAPTAIN THE PRINCE OF WALES IN EGYPT.  
HOW THE VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS  
ARE TRAINED.  
M. NICOLAS PASHITCH.  
ITALY'S ALPINE WAR.  
ITALIAN BIG GUNS IN USE.  
THE CELEBRATION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE  
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