

DR. CONNELL BACK FROM THE WAR ZONE

Omaha Man Details Incidents of Field and Hospital in Countries Swept by Shot and Shell.

WAR SPIRIT IS UNBROKEN

Dr. Karl Connell, son of Mr. W. J. Connell, has returned to New York and resumed his work at the Roosevelt hospital, having finished his assignment with the Whitney unit in the hospital service in France.

"We sped across the Atlantic on the Lusitania early in November. The need seemed urgent, for an angry sea of German troops was beating against the human dyke that the English had thrown across Flanders, and the disorganization of September again threatened. With other surgeons of the Whitney hospital unit, together with a full nursing staff and accompanied by Mrs. Henry Payne Whitney and ex-Ambassador Bacon, we all sailed to do our small part for common humanity in the struggle of the great war.

"The British were building admirable trench field hospitals in their own zone, and from these evacuating the wounded into England. So we were assigned to the zone of greatest need, that of the French, northeast of Paris and below Soissons. This seemed the place where the Germans might again take the offensive on the main front, and on the other side, another which the French would readily smash, striving to drive the invader from their coal fields and industrial sections, until at last with the growing might of Britain they would sweep the sea across the Rhine.

The College of July was available as the basis for a beautiful hospital. So into the old wooden rooms, where the nobility of France for centuries had been educated, we installed a modern hospital. Under the magic of modern building sanitation the massive walls three to five centuries old and great damp dormitories took on the warmth, cleanliness and efficiency of the modern city hospital. Without losing any of the charm of their historic past they gained the sentiment of added service for France. The surroundings of parks, of pretty French village and landscape, were delightful. The battlefield of the Marne spread out for many miles to the north and east, scarred by trenches, by graves and shell-swept woods and fields. Occasionally the big guns rumbled in the distance, and the work was intense in its human interest. Yet, with it all there was the ever-depressant realization of the awfulness of the drama in the poor mangled victims under our care.

Inspects Behind Lines. The hospital became one of the most notably useful of the war zone, particularly in the efficiency with which the more serious cases could be handled directly from the field units of the army. The chief of the French army surgeons and the president of the republic visited it and desired that its usefulness should be extended. So the original capacity of 150 beds is to be extended through the added generosity of Mrs. Whitney, and with the extension of the British front some Highland Indian regiments, which a blood-stained way back to the roof that sheltered Napoleon, for the British, it is said, will hold the line as far east as Soissons.

After some months of service in France I left for an inspection behind the other lines. Our relief contingent had arrived from America, men also trained in the surgery of industrial war in our great cities. I, therefore, was able to leave for Germany, with the way opened by credentials from the American embassy in France. There, through a winding course of personal introduction, the door of the sanitary system of Germany was unlocked.

Bitter as the fight may be at the front, yet remote from the heat of passion, all nations meet on common ground in the alleviation of human suffering. So the surgeon general gave me admission to the whole of Germany except strategic war zones. The month through Germany and down into Austria and Hungary was most interesting and impressive.

Tells of the Troops. Of the many scenes of interest I shall sketch just a little picture here and there. The "Kitties" were marching the day we went through London—great rugged bronzed fellows they were, the finest of the many contingents that drilled in the streets and squares, from Trafalgar square to Buckingham palace. The Canadian troops stood next in line, much like the rough-riding remnants from the western plains; also the pick of British were there—broad-shouldered, rosy, clean-limbed lads, who strode with imperious step, and the confidence of world-conquerors. Britain looked invincible in its drilling might. Only the units of London, the cadets, porters, and rum-soaked dervishes, left soon for other victories to be gained.

France—pretty, patient and suffering, fighting with a deadly seriousness. Troops beautiful by groups, but in the mass a straggling lot of unkempt sturdy little chaps, good fighters with a genius at the quick offensive which won Napoleon his victories.

In proportion to the magnitude of the forces engaged the winter in France has been quiet. Wounded have been relatively scarce. Officers from the front have told me that along certain sections of the line no cannon could be heard for weeks at a time. I have had wounded who had served a month in the trenches without having seen a German, watching closely for hours at a time the opposing trench only a hundred yards away. On quiet days the ambulances have been only 80 yards behind the front at sheltered spots. Not a rifle shot was to be heard; the soldiers walked about without arms, smoking cigarettes as if it were Sunday and the world was at peace. The news in the war zone is scanty, and the soldiers are most eager for scraps of outside information. One must live within earshot of the Metropolitan extras to get a continuous war thrill.

Little Outward Sign of War. One may look across the landscape where the hostile trenches face one another in silence and see nothing out of the usual, not even the line of new-trenched earth. This is the average impression of a modern war zone.

Through the winter the zone behind the battle line has been the quietest place in Europe—except as the wounded come back—no aid through a loop in the

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trench; another caught by a stray bullet while cutting wood for supper; another, the only survivor of six from a compartment in the trench where a shell struck fair; another, a runner who has never been within two miles of the battle line—he and his battery caught by a shell dropped from five miles away. So this curious stage of war and machine death has gone on. With the coming of spring it has increased in violence. Sections have been assaulted at times by rain of shell and musket troops, but along the line as a whole one would remark more at the stillness than the noise.

The same surprise greeted me in Germany. There was little outward sign of war. Business went on as in peace, with the theaters open, the hotels full, crowds on the street and an apparent abundance of everything that pertains to peace as well as war. The war machinery itself was that of a great efficient industrial enterprise.

Horde of Sick and Wounded. Here also the relative "scarcity" of recently wounded in the hospitals of western Germany and Belgium made it evident that the battle of position in the west had not been severe through the winter. The Germans had persistently fought largely against the British with

a bitterness that knows no reason. Elsewhere in the west they had been on a careful defensive, except at a few strategic points. Austria and Hungary alone showed markedly the strain of the winter's war. Schools, museums and every available building in city and countryside were crowded with wounded.

Back through the Carpathians I saw the frozen, the sick and the wounded pour in an unceasing stream. Here has been the battle of central Europe for its life against the Slav.

Germany believes it is a winning fight, and that mid-July will see the Russian offensive power broken. With the same conviction western Europe believes that it in turn will break the German.

As for myself, with a Scotch and Puritan ancestry, it would be unnatural not to have abiding faith in Britain's triumph, yet, mixed with that faith and a sympathy for pretty, stricken France, is a profound respect for German Spartanism and her terrifying efficiency, in war as in peace.

War Spirit Unbroken. It would be untrue to one's own to underestimate the enemy. From behind the lines I am convinced that the German power and spirit is unbroken; that the slumbering British spirit has just awakened. Britain's mighty world power is now marshaling. In the impending struggle her best—the "Kitties"—will be in the hardest fought fields—unconquerable in life, heroic in death—for victory.

Home on the Ryndam from Rotterdam early in April left no doubt as to who was mistress of the sea. The British mine fields left only a tortuous course through the straits and English channel. Its torpedo boats circled the ship for any hiding periscope, and its cruiser bade us stop for search and seizure of the German passengers. Its merchantmen plied the channel and the open sea as in peace. Britannia rules.

Department Orders. WASHINGTON, May 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Rural free delivery routes will be established June 15 as follows: Nebraska: Niobrara, Knox county, routes 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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while others died later from their injuries. The Times correspondent from northern France says the first shell fell in Dunkirk at 2:30 Thursday afternoon, almost at the same moment that three German aeroplanes were seen hovering overhead. "The bombardment," the correspondent adds, "continued for ninety minutes. Inhabitants hid in the cellars or fled the town. The military authorities of Dunkirk were powerless to reply to the enemy's big guns, the whereabouts of which was unknown, but they opened a furious fire on the aeroplanes and drove them off. On Friday morning all was quiet and the bombardment had not been renewed up to noon."

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