

SLAUGHTER AT CHARLEROI IS GREATEST IN HISTORY

By FRANKLIN P. MERRICK.
International News Service.
Paris.—Burned villages and heaps of bodies lying on Belgian soil around Charleroi show the ferocity with which the allied French and British troops opposed the wave of German troops that rolled them over and drove them back to France.
For ten hours the tide of battle ebbed and flowed at Charleroi, the town being taken and retaken five times before the allies withdrew.
Part of the city was wrecked, according to reports received by the war office. The villages of Marchiennes, Monceau, Chatelet and Landelles were burned.

Citizens Killed.
Though the inhabitants of the peaceful little villages had been warned that the conflict was coming, scores remained in their homes and perished in the flames or were killed under the rain of shot and shell that swept the streets when they were driven from the shattered structures.

Fierce hand to hand fighting took place in Charleroi. The French were the first to occupy the town, but they were driven out by a bombardment from the German artillery. The Germans then entered by the left bank of the river Sambre, but within a short time more of the allies' troops arrived and the conflict was renewed. The Germans sought cover in the houses in the lower part of the town and to dislodge them the French were forced to sweep that section with their artillery.

Wounded Fill Town.
The lower part of the town was soon in flames and the Germans were forced into the streets. Back and forth through these surged the contending soldiers, fighting desperately for victory. The dead lay thick when the French were finally forced to withdraw.

For three days wounded soldiers have been pouring into Maubeuge. The monastery and nunnery there are filled. The inhabitants have given up their homes to the war's victims.
On Sunday the Germans drove the French troops through the town of Charleroi, back to the second defensive position on the line defined by the towns of Avesnes, Rocroi and Metziers.

Recaptured by French.
The French artillery from the heights now turned a furious cannonading on Charleroi, which had been bombarded previously by the Germans from the other side. The German position was so weakened by the deadly accuracy of the French gunnery that a counter attack by the allies was ordered and at daylight on Monday the entire line advanced, charged the German position and recaptured Charleroi.

The conflict probably was unequalled in history in severity and casualties. The Germans must have succeeded in bringing up reserves, for early on Tuesday they made a successful counter attack along the whole battle line and retook Charleroi, driving the French back to an entrenched position, which they held until the morning of the second day.

Retreat in Good Order.
The retreat was made in good order, the main forces of the French remaining intact.

Both armies suffered terrific losses. The battle has not yet finished.
The German catapult is hammering at the French and British allies again, trying to batter its relentless way to Paris. There is desperate fighting along the Belgian frontier at several points, and French victories are reported at two places, Charleroi and Courtrai, though nothing official has been given out.

Turcos Charge Battery.
At the beginning of the combat, the French made a sortie in a medieval manner, with the object of surprising the enemy. The latter were found in number far exceeding the French expectations, and the attempt to rout them failed.

Then the Turcos, in the face of a withering fire, charged a German battery at the point of the bayonet. Five hundred of these brave French soldiers from North Africa left on the charge. Only 100 returned.

Their sortie had no effect against the steady German advance, which continued to creep step by step through the outskirts of Charleroi.

Before the railway station the Germans fought for two hours in an effort to capture the bridge. Their losses were enormous, but the bridge was captured.

French Beaten Rapidly.
After the Teutonic advance overwhelmed the bridge, the Germans gained ground rapidly, taking in succession the villages of Marchiennes, Landelles and Montignies and the country as far as Walcourt.

Later the French artillery opened fire on Charleroi and the French infantry advanced under this cover. The tide of battle appeared to favor the tri-color, but not for long.

French infantrymen declared the roofs became so jammed with dead that the victims of battle remained standing where they were shot, and were used by the living as breast-works from behind which to fire on the enemy.

The last stand of the French was along the line between Thuin and Mettet.

At nightfall the fighting ended, both sides tired beyond endurance. Monday morning the French returned to the attack, entering the town in the

face of a withering fire from machine guns mounted in the steeples, and driving the German defenders in confusion across the river Sambre.

Many Houses in Flames.
They found many houses smoldering or in flames. The inhabitants, terror-stricken, were in the cellars. German officers and soldiers were found dead in the streets, side by side with Frenchmen who had fallen before or afterward.

One German officer was shot while he was washing his face; and his head was bowed over a basin, while his face was covered with soap.

Another had been lifting a cup of coffee to his lips when a French bullet-brought death. He was found lying face downward across a table, the broken cup beside him on the floor.

German Losses Enormous.
An idea of the enormous losses of the Germans in the great battle in southwestern Belgium and of the bravery of the Kaiser's soldiers is given in the story of a returned traveler who witnessed part of the fighting along the Sambre river, southwest of Charleroi.

"I was near Foreux, in a region covered with dense woods, while the fighting was taking place," said he. "I could hear the sound of cannon away to the east and knew that a big battle was raging. From my place in the forest I suddenly saw the advance guard of a German army approaching along a roadway which skirted the trees.

"There seemed to be an endless procession of soldiers, all dressed in a uniform of gray. Rank after rank passed by and I thought that the end would never come.

"There was no hesitation. The men swung forward with quick steps and I saw officers galloping along the lines urging them forward.

French Open Fire.
"Suddenly there was a fresh sound of battle, this time in front of me and I knew that the French artillery had opened upon the advance guard of the Germans. I moved cautiously forward to a point where I could get a view of the battle scene. It was a view which seared itself into my memory.

"The French guns were hurling a hurricane of steel and flame into the German ranks, but the soldiers pushed forward with their battle shouts on their lips. Straight into that pit of destruction rushed the advancing troops. Men fell, on every hand. It seemed that whole platoons melted away.

"Over the bodies of the dead and wounded pushed the rear ranks of the invading army, rushing with fixed bayonets upon the smoking muzzles of the French artillery. It was a superb picture of gallantry.

Aeroplane is Smashed.
"Near Erquennes I saw a German aeroplane brought down. The military aviator was flying high in the air, taking a reconnaissance of the allies' positions. The specially constructed guns, designed to attack air craft, were turned upon the aeroplane, but the aviator continued his work. Suddenly I saw the machine lurch, splinters flew, and then the shattered machine began to drop. It had been smashed by a projectile."

GERMANS DRAG GUNS OVER THEIR OWN DEAD

London.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail describes a visit among the French who were wounded in the battles of the Vosges and have been brought to Vichy, where the hotels have been transformed into hospitals.

A wounded artilleryman contributed the following experience:
"I witnessed one horrible scene. The Germans were shooting from the deep trenches among which our artillery was doing terrible work. But as fast as a German dropped a fresh man took his place until bodies of the Germans were on a level with the surface of the earthworks.

"At this moment a German battery was ordered to advance. The heavy wheels sank in the trench, but the drivers furiously lashed their horses and finally dragged the guns across the human bridge."

WHAT PRISONERS OF WAR WILL EAT

The following scale of daily rations for prisoners of war has been approved by the military authorities:

One pound of bread, three-quarters of a pound of biscuit, one pound of preserved meat, three ounces of cheese, five-eighths of an ounce of tea, one-quarter of a pound of jam, three ounces of sugar, one-half of an ounce of salt, one-twentieth of an ounce of mustard, one-thirty-sixth of an ounce of pepper, one-half of a pound of fresh vegetables.

Two ounces of tobacco will be furnished each week for smokers.

Gunners Made Stone Deaf.
London.—A medical correspondent of the Times who has just returned from Belgium says it is morally certain that all the artillerymen of the forts at Liege are now stone deaf.

"The nerves of hearing must fall under the strain of dwelling upwards of a fortnight in a world of mighty explosions," he says. "For these men the guns thunder now only in a silence which may never be broken."

PLEASED WITH RESULTS.

Food Commissioners Plan for Testing Cream Satisfactory.

The state food commissioner, the cream producers and the operators of creameries are all pleased with the results of one month's trial of the new system of grading cream. Commissioner Harman estimates that the new method will mean a gain of \$1,000,000 a year to the cream producers.

The new method has been tried without a change of prices for cream. But beginning about the middle of September it will be enforced with a change in prices. Under instructions from the food commissioner, and with the consent of the creamery operators, cream was graded No. 1 and No. 2. The third grade was condemned and not sold for butter making purposes. Mr. Harman figures that under the old method of selling cream the producer who took sanitary care of his dairy and his product was getting no more for his produce than the man who was not so considerate for the consumers. All grades were mixed together and so the creameries could not make a best grade butter.

One of the largest creameries in the state reports that butter made from cream No. 1 grade scored two points more than the creamery's output had ever, before scored on the market.

The legislative reference bureau is sending out questionnaires to the clerks of all the cities and towns of the state asking for detailed information on the municipal affairs of the town. Some of the information has been secured and published in tabulated form in the reference book on Nebraska municipalities. The bureau is seeking to keep this tabulation up to date and also to secure additional information. Some of the new questions asked in the blank are: "What is the income from the occupation tax, the rate and the amount? Is question of liquor license an issue in your city? Do you have municipal milk inspection? What method is used in handling garbage? What interest does your town take in rural conditions? How many miles of paving and of what material?" The book on Nebraska municipalities, recently published, is now being sent out to the clerks of the various towns and villages.

The Nebraska farmers' co-operative grain and live stock state association, through its secretary, J. W. Shorthill, of Hampton, has filed a complaint with the state railway commission against all of the railroads in Nebraska on account of alleged unreasonableness of freight rates on grain. The complaint alleges the grain rates are deceptive and the excessiveness he complains of is, in many instances, carefully concealed, that rates are made in such a way as to be small for a small shipment and high for a larger shipment, that carload rates on different railroad lines are not uniform for like distances, that they are not logically made and are discriminatory. In a letter the secretary of the association does not pose as the best authority of rates, but that it is ready to defend its allegations. Owing to the vast amount involved he expresses the hope that the commission will grant an early hearing.

Three more amendments to the constitution of the state are almost a certainty as a result of the primary election. Both the major parties, and undoubtedly all the minor parties, have endorsed all three, and straight party votes will be counted this fall for the three changes in the state's fundamental law. Without such endorsement by parties the amendments would fail owing to the provision requiring a majority of all votes cast at the election to be for any amendment to put it through.

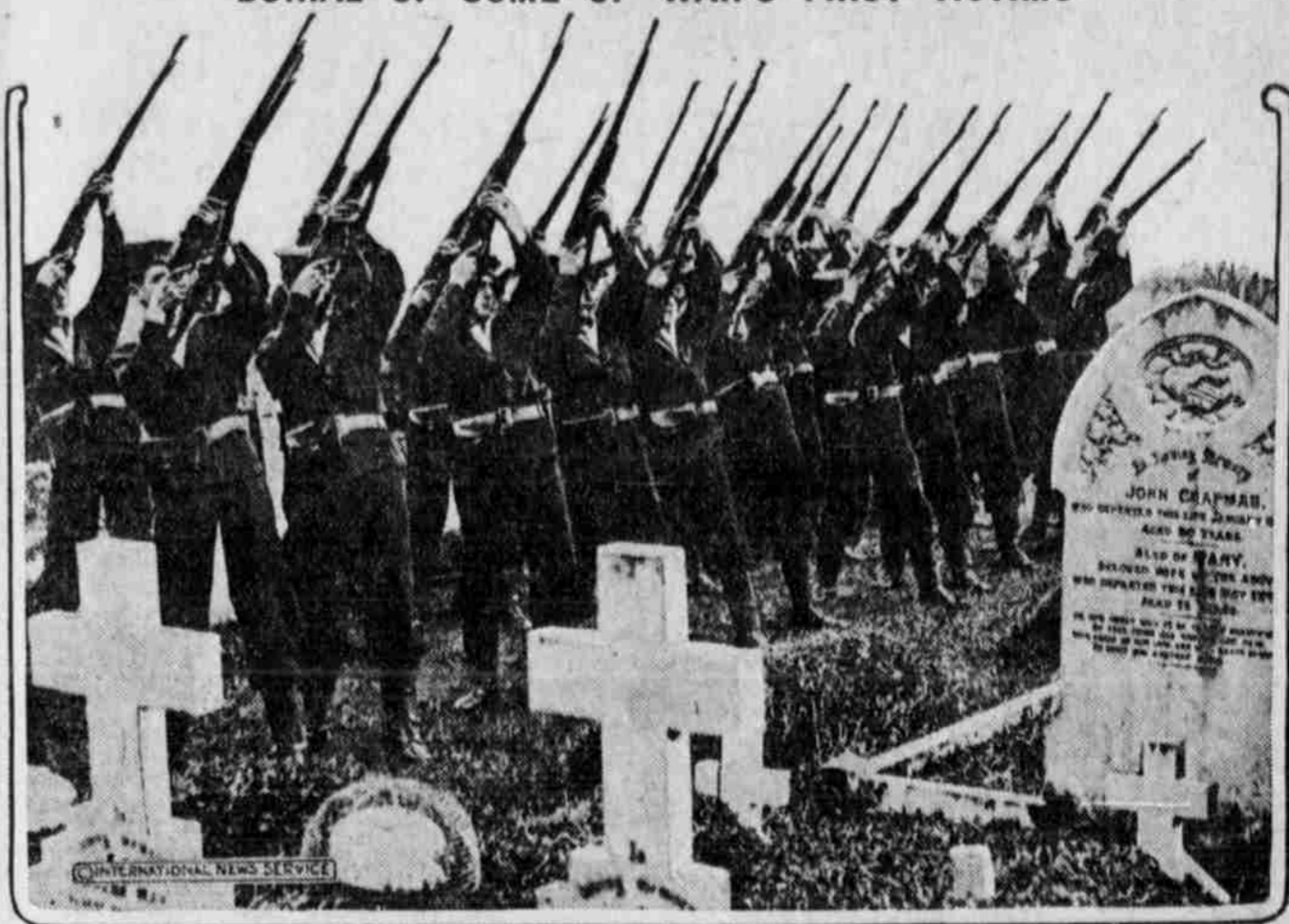
The State University has been given the use of the old horticultural hall at the State Fair grounds during the week of the State Fair. One wing of the building will be in charge of the department of home economics, which will provide an exhibit and a sanitary rest room. This room will be for the use of Nebraska women any time between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 p. m.

The railway commission has refused to grant a rehearing to the Union Pacific in the Gandy depot case. The commission ordered a depot built and the supreme court affirmed the order and then the company asked the commission for a rehearing on the ground that conditions had changed since the case was instituted.

As a result of the equalization of land values in nine counties the state board of assessment has slightly increased the total assessed valuation of the state. The total this year is \$472,263,035, an increase of \$1,572,621 over last year. The state levy is the same as last year, 7.80 mills on the dollar valuation.

If a house is blown down by a tornado and then burns up can fire insurance be collected? The district court of Douglas county has answered in the affirmative and the Girard Fire and Marine Insurance company of Philadelphia, Pa., has appealed to the supreme court. The lower court gave a judgment for \$538.28 in favor of Martin Wiig against the company. The judgment is for the full amount of a policy on a house that was blown over by a tornado that struck Omaha last year.

BURIAL OF SOME OF WAR'S FIRST VICTIMS



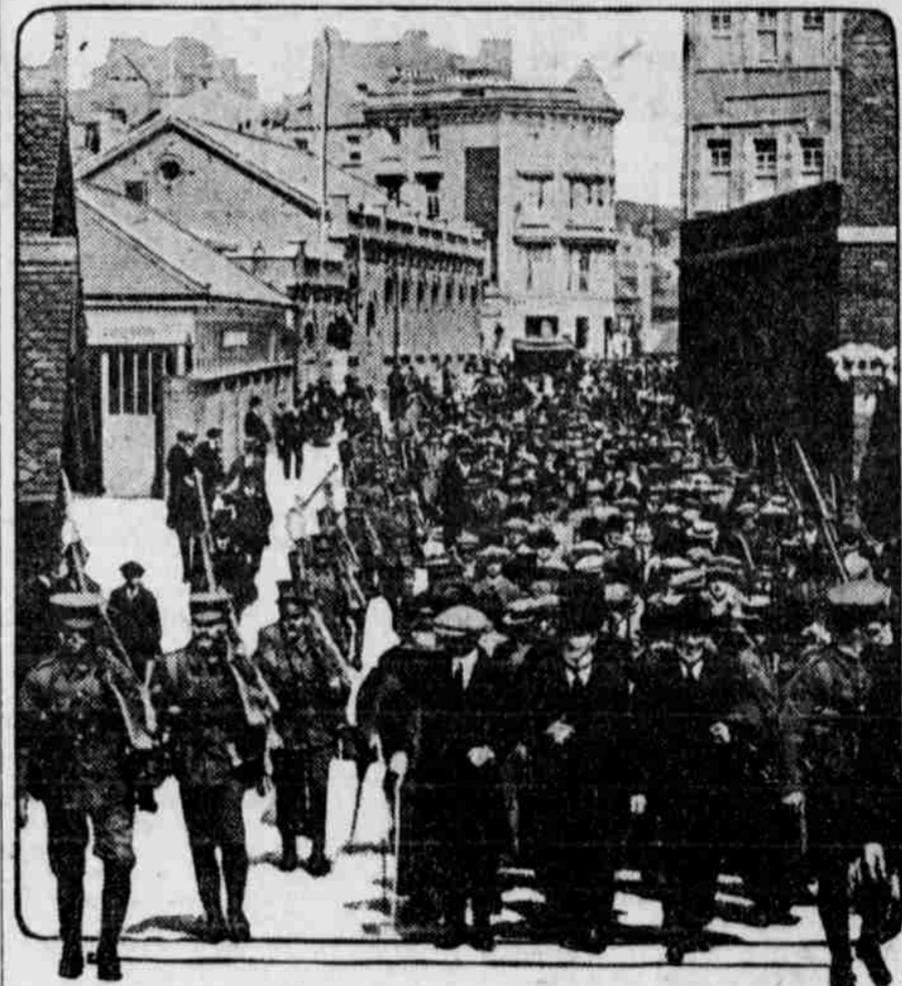
English sailors firing a salute over the graves of four English and four German sailors who perished when the British cruiser Amphion and the German steamer Koenigen Luise were destroyed in the North sea.

BARRICADE ON THE SWISS-GERMAN FRONTIER



This photograph shows some of the barricades which have been erected across all the roads leading from Switzerland into Germany along the international frontier. The Swiss and German troops are only a few paces apart all along the border.

GERMAN PRISONERS IN ENGLAND



Two hundred German reservists being marched through the streets of Folkestone by English troops. They were captured as they were about to leave for the continent.

FRENCH SKIRMISHERS IN FLANK ATTACK



French skirmishers advancing to take the enemy in the flank during the fighting in Lorraine. Inset is Gen. Paul Pau, commander of the French troops in that vicinity.

WAR'S PATHETIC SIDE



Member of the British royal naval reserve volunteers fondly carrying his infant child as he makes his way to the mobilization point.

GEN. VON KROBATKIN



Chief of the Austro-Hungarian ministry of war.

One Bullet in 5,000 Fatal.
A regular army officer is authority for saying that during a battle only one bullet out of every 5,000 fired kills an enemy. Two armies each of 50,000 men might go into action with 100 rounds of ammunition. These armies could discharge at each other 10,000,000 bullets. If only one shot in 1,000 took effect, 5,000 men on each side would be killed or wounded. That would be a heavy casualty, but, as the army officer says, the artillery fire is more destructive than rifle fire.