

PARIS DEFENSES ARE VERY STRONG

Half Million Men Required to Invest French Capital, So Formidable Its Fortifications.

THREE HUGE CIRCLES SURROUND

Military Experts Say It Would Be Vastly More Difficult to Capture Place Now Than in 1870.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—The fortifications of Paris and their ability to resist a siege is receiving the close attention of military observers, now that Paris is the announced objective point of the German forces, and the French ministry of war has adopted urgent means of strengthening the city's defenses to the utmost.

While the city's detailed defenses are surrounded with secrecy by French military authorities, yet their general character and formidable strength are known to military experts, who recognize them as among the strongest fortifications of the world.

These fortifications consist of three distinct circles sweeping around the city—first, the solid wall of masonry, eighteen feet high, extending for twenty-two miles around the old sections of Paris; second, the system of seventeen detached forts arranged at intervals, two miles beyond the wall, and making a circuit of the city thirty-four miles long; and third, an outer circle of forts seventy-five miles long on the heights commanding the valley of the Seine.

Each Circle Complete. Each of these circles of masonry and steel is a complete defense in itself, the forts being linked together with redoubts, bastions and glacis, which permit a cross-fire against approach from any direction.

The wall around Paris and the seventeen detached forts two miles beyond the city were built by Louis Philippe. They sustained the German siege of 1870-71, and the outer forts have since been greatly strengthened. The third line of forts on the hills of the St. Germaine, Comelles and Villiers, are of modern construction with the latest types of batteries and heavy guns.

The inner wall about Paris surrounds the best known and most important sections of the city including the business sections along the Grand boulevard, the residence sections of the north and west of the city and the Latin quarter and other sections on the left bank of the Seine.

Circle of Suburbs. On the outside of the wall is a circle of suburbs extending for many miles, including Neuilly, Argenteuil, Versailles, Vincennes and many others. The forts of the second and third lines of defenses are dotted among these suburbs protecting them and the approaches to the capital. The wall contains ninety-three bastions and sixty-seven gates.

Some of these have been abandoned owing to the pressure of modern construction and trade. But recent advances received here from Paris state that all the gates still existing are now closed at 3 p. m., with rigid regulations against movements from within or without.

The second line of forts includes the famous fortress of Mont Valerien, which was the center of attack in the German siege of 1870. It is strengthened by two groups of works—Hautes Bruyeres and the Chailion fort and batteries. South of the city is the row of forts at Ivry, Bictre, Mont Rouge, Vanves and Issy. North and east of the city are three great forts around St. Denis and two others at Fort Auberjiviers and Fort Charenton, commanding the approaches from the great wood of Bondy.

Would Take Half Million. The outer circle of forts, which are of the most modern type, have from twenty-four to sixty heavy guns and 600 to 1,200 men each. In all the three lines of defenses it requires 170,000 men to operate them, not counting troops assembled within the city. According to military experts, it would require a force of 500,000 men to invest these defenses.

General Von Moltke, field marshal of the German forces at the time of the siege of Paris in 1870, states in a report on that siege that the French artillery armament consisted of more than 2,627 pieces, including 200 of the largest caliber of naval ordnance. There were 500 rounds for each gun and a reserve of 5,000,000 kilograms of powder. Von Moltke points out that the bombardment of a fortified place in the heart of any enemy's country is difficult if not impossible until the invader is master of the railways or waterways by which siege artillery can be brought up in full quantity.

He explains the failure to bombard Paris at the outset of the former siege by saying it would have required 200 heavy guns with 500 rounds for each gun. The movement forward of these heavy guns would have required 4,500 four-wheeled wagons and 10,000 horses, which were not available.

At a later stage the Germans brought up their big siege guns, attacking the enclaves and ports and dropping 30 to 40 fifteen centimetre shells daily into the heart of the city. Notwithstanding the fury of the German attacks Paris withstood the siege for 121 days. Since then the entirely new and outer third line of defense has been erected and military experts say the fortifications as a whole are far more formidable than those which resisted the former siege.

Belgian Soldiers Tell of Fall of Namur

FOLKESTONE, Aug. 29.—(Via London, 4:30 a. m.)—A number of Belgian wounded from Namur have arrived here, but it is difficult to get any connected account of the fight there. They say the Germans bombarded continuously from Friday till Sunday and they believe it was the superiority, in long range, of the German guns which gave them the victory.

On Saturday a German shell exploded in Marchouville fort and put the largest gun and one six-inch gun out of action. Two hundred Belgian soldiers, while trying to escape, were practically annihilated by German shrapnel and machine guns.

On Sunday ammunition ran short in some of the forts and more was sent for, but the town fell at midday Sunday before it arrived. The Belgian soldiers made a splendid retirement, which was covered by the French troops.

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Omaha Woman Bribes Guards and Runs by French Sentries to Get Free of War Zone

Mrs. Frank Crawford of this city relates thrilling experiences she had in escaping from the war zone after the declaration of war. With Miss Alice L. Howe of Worcester, Mass., she had to run the gauntlet of French sentries, bribe guards and suffered untold miseries. They were the only Americans to have escaped from Lyons, France.



Mrs. Frank Crawford

They went to Europe from New York on the Olympic, sailing July 11. It was their intention to stay part of the time in France and the rest of the time in England and not to return until September.

"Within ten days after we arrived, on August 4, war was declared," said Mrs. Crawford. "The order for the mobilization of the French army was given August 5, when we were in Avignon, France. Rumors of war had been in the air for days so we had changed our money orders and travelers' checks to gold and silver. That alone saved us from staying in Europe for many weeks.

"As soon as the order was issued we determined to start for home, but we found it a more difficult task than we had imagined.

Start for Paris. "August 5 we started from Avignon for Paris. The train proceeded at a slow rate and at every station soldiers and officers, with weeping wives, sweethearts and children crowded the platform. The patriotism was intense. Flags were flying everywhere and the Marseillaise was sung frequently. We got to Lyons and then were politely but firmly informed that we could proceed no further and that we must stay in that city for twenty-one days or until the mobilization of the French troops had been completed.

"That was at 2 o'clock in the morning. We were sent from the train, and were obliged to carry our heavy luggage through the streets to the Hotel Anglerterre. We lost all our trunks at the station. At the Anglerterre there were few rooms, but we succeeded in getting accommodations.

Must Stay in Lyons. "The next day we went to the station, but were told that we could continue to Paris only after the twenty-one days had elapsed. The station was completely surrounded by troops.

"We remembered that there is a hotel in Lyons, called the Terminus, which enters on the station at one point. We went there, escorted by a small boy with our luggage, and after waiting until the sentry was not looking, dashed across a platform and into a private compartment of an express to Paris. We were forced to give the guard a gold sovereign before he would let us in.

Enter Troop Train. "Then we found that we were in a troop train. The compartment in which we were was partly filled with French officers, who showed us every consideration. "The train stopped at the Gare de Lyon, and there were no taxicabs. Finally we found an old cobbler with his cab, and he took us to the Hotel Bellevue, Avenue of the Opera.

"In Paris we found many friends, and for a time our troubles were minor ones. We went to the American consulate and

got passports, and to the chief of police to get permits de séjour, which were necessary to escape arrest.

"Fear of a siege in Paris drove us every day to the American Express office, and we stood in line for hours trying to get steamship accommodations. After days of waiting, we got second-class tickets on the steamship Chicago of the French line, sailing from Havre.

Charters an Auto. "Then the main difficulty was to get to Havre. We heard only cattle trains were running, so we chartered an auto from the Packard company at a cost of \$100, and made a wild cross-country flight to the port. At every town and city, and often between, we were halted by French soldiers who, after looking at our passports, allowed us to pass on.

"It took us seven hours to get to Havre. Then we were told that in all probability neither the Chicago nor the France would sail for some weeks, as it was feared that German cruisers were patrolling the waters off the coast.

"Admiral Dame of the English Navy was at the port disembarking 100,000 English soldiers and we met his aide-de-camp, Captain Chester Peck, who proved to be an English friend. He got us first-class accommodations on the France, which were much better than the second cabins we had on the Chicago.

Escorted by Cruisers. "In a few days we learned that we were to proceed under escort of several British cruisers. We left Havre without regret, and made an eventful trip across the Atlantic. With us on the boat was

Mrs. Annie Wilson Howe, a sister of President Wilson. During the trip \$3,000 was raised among the passengers for the American Red Cross society. It was the largest sum ever raised for such a purpose on an ocean steamship. There was no attempt made to disguise the ship, as it was felt that the convoy was sufficient protection.

"We left many friends in Paris. They were much worried over their predicament. Only our courage, money and knowledge of the French language enabled us to get out of the country. If it hadn't been for those things we would be there yet, I believe."

Mr. Crawford, who is now in Omaha, said that he was at no time worried about Mrs. Crawford; that he received two cables from her that she was safe and had gold, and he knew she was fully capable of taking care of herself. He added that if he had been with his wife and in command they would probably have been the last ones out of France.

"I am mighty sorry, he said, that I was not there to see at first hand these great movements, which we have all known were bound to take place. I certainly would not have rushed for home, but would have gone to Madrid or some neutral place and learned something anyway," said Mr. Crawford.

Mrs. Crawford left in Paris Miss Nancy Batten of Omaha and Miss Helen Epler, professor in Vassar college, with whom Mrs. Crawford had several times lived abroad. They may have to stand a siege. As fellow passengers on the France were Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Fick of Omaha.

and also that the added charge for animals of high value with a declared higher value shall not be as much as at present. The limit in the ordinary stock shipping contract is: For horse \$100, steer \$50, cow \$30, calf, \$10, hog \$10, sheep \$5. These limits were placed in the contracts fifty years or more ago and have been con-

tinued despite the very great variation in value of the animals shipped and are declared now to bear no relation to the actual value.

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RUSSIANS' LOSSES ARE NOT GIVEN OUT

Arrival of Wounded in Moscow and St. Petersburg Indicate Heavy Toll in the Fighting.

FEARFUL COST OF GALLANTRY

Withholding of Lists of Dead Done with Profound Knowledge of the Psychology of the Russian Character.

(Copyright, 1914, by Press Publishing Co.) ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 29.—(Special Telegram to the New York World and Omaha Bee.)—Possibly I may have conveyed the idea in my previous dispatches that the Russians had a fairly easy task in east Prussia, as well as against the Austrians. This is far from being the case, but the absence of details of the fighting makes it difficult to realize exactly what has happened.

So far as the Russian public knows from official sources the losses have been entirely on the side of the enemy, but the arrivals of wounded at hospitals in Moscow and St. Petersburg indicate definitely that every step of the advance in east Prussia was won by hard fighting.

Up to the last few days, when Russian strategy demoralized the German armies and their retirement became a rout, there was no data to assist in forming any estimate of the Russian losses, dead or wounded.

The gallant charge of the horse guards and their capture of many batteries of German field artillery was effected at fearful cost and many of the highest families here are proudly mourning their dead.

The charges recan Balaclava and the charge of the Light Brigade. The wisdom of abstaining from any of the accounts of the losses is based upon a sound knowledge of Russian psychology, the Russians being more than most nations inclined to slacken their efforts when matters are going well. They fall as often as not, from not following up an advantage gained. At the moment any signs begin to show in Russia of this characteristic, it will be time to launch upon the nation the fearful account of casualties, which will move another tidal wave of warlike energy.

Through Russia one fact is patent, Russia's losses have been solely in the direction which she is richest-of men. Neither guns, munitions nor supplies have anywhere been lost. Every barrack yard is filling again with a constant flow of new life of a quality as rich as can be found nowhere today but in an agricultural country like Russia.

Guns of Tsing-Tau Open on Scouting Cruisers of Japan

TSING TAU, China, Aug. 29.—Two small Japanese cruisers yesterday drew the first shots from the Tsing Tau fortifications. Several shots dropped around one of the cruisers whereupon the vessel fired one shot in reply and withdrew. It is reported that one German shell found its mark.

The Japanese vessels appeared evidently with the purpose of reconnoitering. They were within seven miles and plainly visible. Several shots from the forts dropped around the leading cruiser, raising columns of water, whereupon the vessel veered east and departed at full speed, after having fired one shot. It is estimated that the forts will be

STATE DEPENDS ON BABIES

Wife of Iowa Governor Says More Heed Should Be Paid Them.

WOMEN'S BUILDING DEDICATED

New Eighty-Thousand-Dollar Structure at Des Moines Fair Grounds Opened to Public for the First Time.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) DES MOINES, Ia., Aug. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Formal opening and dedication of the new \$80,000 building for women and children was a feature of the first day of the state fair. The wife of Governor Clarke presided and opened the ceremonies.

"When Iowa pays as much attention to the proper raising of babies as it does to raising corn," she said, "we will have the greatest state in the union." There was an extended program after which the specialists commenced scoring the 200 babies entered in the baby health contest.

Taxing Phone Lines. The state council is preparing to go into court to compel the county officials of Benton county to tax the farmers telephone lines in that county. Under the state law all the telephone lines in the state, no matter what kind of lines they are, must be reported to the state and the state council fixes a valuation on them. This is certified back to the counties with an order that the assessment be placed against the lines and the value be distributed according to the location of the wires. It has been found that for years Benton county has neglected to do this. The county board merely decided that the farmers lines are a part of the farms and marked them all exempt from taxation. Now the state will ask the court to order the spreading of the values on the books for five years back and collection of the taxes in accordance with law. So far as known this is the only county that has permitted the lines to escape taxation.

Under Court Survey. The city ordinances of Fort Madison relating to the conduct of the state prison will be passed on by Judge Hamilton of the Lee county court very soon. Attorneys argued to Judge Hamilton at length the validity of the ordinance, which forbid permitting any convict from the state prison being found on the city streets and are intended to prevent the warden letting convicts work in the city. The state took the position that these ordinances are against public policy and relate to a matter wholly within the province of the legislature, that of the regulation of the prison and handling of the convicts. The ordinance are due to pressure from the union labor organizations desiring to prevent any competition in cheap labor in the city. But the warden continues to make use of 150 to 200 convicts outside prison walls, practically all the time.

Live Stock Contracts. Judge Henderson, commerce counsel, forwarded today to the Interstate Commerce commission the brief and argument in the case brought by western stock shippers to compel a material change in the form of the stock shipping contracts. The demand is that the value limitation be entirely removed from these contracts so that in case of loss the company will be responsible for the actual loss and not an arbitrary smaller sum; or in case this is not done that the limitation be raised,

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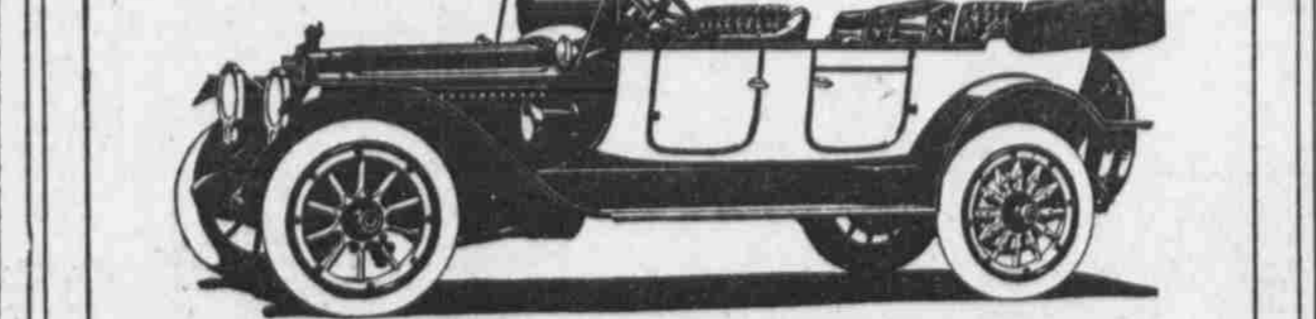
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able to last eight months. They are still receiving fresh food supplies. The Shan-Tung trains are arriving and departing. KIAO CHOW, China, Aug. 28.—(Delayed.)—German reservists from distant parts of China are still entering Tsing-Tau. Many of them, habili clad, are along the river between Wei Hsin, province of Shan-Tung, and Tsing-Tau. The first German outposts are at a village twelve miles from Tsing-Tau. It is there that the bridge has been broken.

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