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WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN SPRING WHEN ARMIES START TO MOVE

BELGIAN OFFICER LIKENS POSITION TO THAT OF PUGILISTS IN CLINCH—MILES OF TRENCHES BEHIND EACH ARMY.

(By WM. G. SHEPHERD)

Dunkirk (by mail to New York) Feb. 2.—"What's going to happen when spring comes?"

A Belgian officer, straight from the trenches in Flanders, answered the question thus:

"Nothing, in my opinion. The army board on both sides have got a puzzle to work out that no military men have ever faced in the world's history.

"Did you ever see two prize fighters get into a clinch and refuse to break apart because each thought the other would get the advantage of him in the break-away? Well, that's the situation along the line in Flanders today, and I suppose, along the whole line. Here are the two armies, nose to nose. You can search through military history and you'll never find two armies that have been so close together, without a hand-to-hand battle, as these two vast armies are.

"Now, how are we going to break apart? You must realize that behind our lines and behind the German lines for many miles the earth has been torn up by trench-makers. You can't drag artillery over trenches. You have to bridge each trench, and the more trenches we and the Germans dig now the harder it will be for either side to move its artillery in the spring, and neither side can advance without moving its big guns.

"It's going to be a terrible and perhaps an impossible job for the artillery on either side, when spring breaks. They'll have to bridge the trenches under fire. It will be worse than bridging rivers. It's a new problem for military experts, but only one out of a hundred new ones which this war has brought out.

Germans Had New Things

"You know," he added, "it was the Germans who had the new things when the war broke out. We've found out that years ago they threw away all their old ideas of warfare and started new again, with new ideas and new principles. The Germans from the start have only made new things ready for us. Of course their huge guns were new. But their trench-making was also new.

"For instance, the old idea of trench-making was to throw the earth up in a high bank before the trench. But the Germans had a better trick than that. Their idea was to hide their trenches, and so they spread out the earth which they took from their trenches in such a way that it was impossible to locate a German trench until you had almost come up to it. The allies were quick enough to adopt the same plan, but we had some nasty lessons first.

"The Germans started out with a whole bag of new tricks, and if they could have got to Paris their tricks might have helped them. But they've been so slow that we've learned of their new schemes, and, as time goes on, we will know everything they do about a twentieth century war.

"It's an old game played in a new way," he summed up. "But it doesn't look like a new game to civilization. It looks like one great murder. You civilians miss the point of it," said the Belgian, with earnest sincerity. "Let me give you an example.

"I've done a lot of big game shooting, because I was stationed in the Belgian Congo for many years, and after I had killed a lion or an elephant I used to watch, with fascination, the faces of the negro bush-beaters. I used to see on them a brutal, animal leer that grew out of the lust for killing. It was always on their faces as they saw an animal die, and in spite of my love for killing big game, I used to almost shudder at that smile at killing.

"But, now I think that same smile of killing must have been on my face, even as I watched the natives, because I've seen it on the faces of my soldiers and of my fellow-officers, after we'd killed a batch of Germans. They look at dying Germans with that same kind of a leer that I used to see on the faces of those Africans.

Says Men Like Killing.

"Killing is a game," he continued, with the same earnestness. "Men like it, all men like it. In a battle they don't think of their flag or their country, or the right or wrong of their cause. They only think of killing; the thought of dying never enters their heads. You'd be the same. Any normal man would be the same. As long as you're well and sound and have plenty of food, you'll have the time of your life in war."

"But haven't you ever seen men run away?"

"Never in battle. They run away on long marches when they are tired or because they're sleepy or hungry. Some of them, a few, a very few, run away because they can't stand the anticipation of danger. But I've never seen a man run away under fire as long as his ammunition held out and he had a chance to kill. It's very terrible, isn't it? But I fear the good God has made us that way.

"You hear a great deal about the hardships of the soldiers in the trenches, don't you? That's all very well and all very true. But, do you know, most soldiers will suffer cold, hunger and sleeplessness for weeks if they are sure to have only a few minutes of fighting.

"I know my men as I know my own brothers, and I know that they were repaid for weeks of suffering for only ten minutes of a good time. A little later all their hardships were atoned for by twenty minutes' good time."

"What do you mean by a good time?"

"Plenty of killing," said the officer, "and then watching the enemy run. Do you know what strikes me as funniest of all?" he concluded.

"What?"

"How little the women of the world know of their men, and how little the men know of themselves until they get a chance to kill."

BRITISH PRISONERS ARE TREATED ROUGHLY

A Non-Commissioned Officer Tells How Germans Handle Them at Camps

London, March 1.—A Rotterdam dispatch to the Daily Mail describes the arrival at Oldenzaal in Holland, of seven British officers and ninety-three men who had been incaptured and were on their way home from German camps. The Dutch Red Cross society took the men over from the German officials.

The soldiers were welcomed by the Dutch official and the Dutch civilians cheered them and loaded them with gifts and pipes, tobacco, cigars, chocolate and other luxuries, all of which were wrapped in the Dutch colors. Many of the soldiers wept at the kindness shown them. All were severely wounded and the injuries of many were terrible. Many of the men were on crutches.

All of the prisoners were most anxious to know how the many German prisoners were treated in England, as their guards had told them that the prisoners had been abominably treated. The British prisoners thought this was the reason for their rough treatment in the German camps.

"We were treated all right at the hospital, especially by the nurses, but the fellows in the concentration camp had an awful

time, for on the slightest complaint they were kicked, while for a more serious breach of discipline they were tied to a post for hours. The food, which was chiefly beans, was of poor quality. The clothes were rags. When the men protested that they were starving they were told: 'Your friends in England have cut our food supply.'

This man confirmed the previous reports that the French prisoners were treated in the most friendly manner, in striking contrast to the treatment of the British prisoners.

A patient in hospital had been kept on low diet for a couple of weeks, and naturally he longed for a square meal.

One morning the doctor found him so much better that it seemed his appetite could at least be safely appeased. "Do you think you could eat a small chicken today, Tim?" asked the doctor.

"Faith, an' I could sor," eagerly responded the patient.

"And what would you like to have it stuffed with?" queried the doctor.

"If it's all the same t'yez," answered Tim, "O'd loik t' have it stuffed with another chicken, sor."

The man who thinks that it is easy to live down a jail record does not understand the human family very well.

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for Prince Rupert and Northern B.C.

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