

# Frankfurter Zeitung Sees Grave Political Problem in Annexation of Belgium

## Kaiser's Chief Motive Was the Crushing of Enemy Armies, Not the Conquest of a Foreign State, Newspaper Declares.

**Berlin, Saturday.**—The question of the retention of the surrender of Belgium when peace is arranged is one upon which German opinion is divided more sharply than upon any other involved in the "war aims" problem. It is the pivot upon which revolves the embittered controversy between the annexationists and their opponents. For Germany, as distinguished from her Austrian ally, it overshadows the same question in relation to Poland, Courland and the other occupied Russian territories.

But properly to understand the German attitude one needs to realize that no German contemplates the possibility of the German armies being driven out of Belgium by force of arms. Only as an act of grace, or at least as an act of policy, is the ultimate withdrawal from that land discussed, even by the most vigorous advocates of retirement.

Among these is the liberal Frankfurter Zeitung, which devotes a sober and closely reasoned article of three columns to an examination of the supposed value of Belgium to the Germans as a base of future military operations, mainly, of course, against England.

### Question of Belgium's Value.

"Is it," says the journal, "militarily considered verily so vital for Germany's safety that our army and our fleet should permanently retain a foothold in Belgium? Can it be that, during the forty years of Germany's gigantic growth in wealth, in world power, in industry and commerce, this vital condition has been overlooked? All this went on without Belgium. The present world war would equally have gone in our favor even had we not, at the beginning, conquered Belgium. Previous to August 1, 1914, no rational German believed the possession of this country was a fundamental postulation of our future. Even our strategists were divided as to whether, in a two-front war, our best chance lay in the west or in the east. Is anything now changed?"

"Admitted that the march through Belgium was deemed to offer the only chance by swiftly overwhelming French resistance, the chief motive, nevertheless, remained the crushing of the enemy armies, not the conquest of a foreign State. Yet the present demand for its retention gives color to the charge of the Belgian campaign having all along been designed with the object of ultimate annexation. . . . With the development of the war the possession of the Flanders coast grew ever clearer in value for the Germans, and in any future war it is a factor which must inevitably enter into the calculations. But this value has its limits. What are those limits?"

The article proceeds to argue that never again can the Germans expect to find the Franco-Belgian frontier as exposed as was the case in 1914; from the sea to the corner of Luxembourg will stretch a girdle similar to the Verdun-Belfort line, "which has proved itself impregnable." (A noteworthy admission.) "This would neutralize the chief advantage conferred in this war by the holding of Belgium; any at-

# Aircraft Are Big Factors in Defeat of U-Boat Drive

## Seaplanes Fight Submarines, Detect Mines and Rescue Seamen.

**London, Saturday.**—As every one knows, aircraft are used for many purposes in this war, that most familiar to the public being the direction of artillery fire at the front," writes a special correspondent in the Daily Telegraph. "This is one of the ways in which aircraft preserves human life, but far more extensive in its consequences is the use of aircraft at sea to protect us from the submarine menace. Had it not been for the co-operation of our aircraft the anti-submarine campaign would have been far less effective, the people of Great Britain and certain of her allies would have been faced with stiffer rations, and the Central Powers would have been unduly elated.

"Here are a few figures relating to the work which naval aircraft performed during the month of September, 1917. The total distance covered by the patrols was 170,000 miles, of which 90,000 miles was covered by seaplanes and 80,000 miles by airplanes. On seven occasions ships which were being attacked by submarines sent S O S signals, which brought seaplanes to their assistance in time to save them by compelling the submarines to dive. Several hundred ships were conveyed.

### Sees a Big Advantage.

"Unfortunately the number of submarines attacked and destroyed by our aircraft cannot be published, but a few words may be said as to the method of attack. When a destroyer sights a submarine some five or six miles away, he goes full speed to the attack at about thirty miles an hour, so that the submarine has ten minutes or so in which to dive beyond the reach of the destroyer's depth charges.

"But when a seaplane sights a submarine at the same distance he flies to the attack at anything from eighty to one hundred miles an hour, so that the submarine has only three or four minutes before bombs begin to fall around her. It must not be assumed, however, that destroyers have been superseded by the seaplanes as the enemy of submarines. On the contrary, the two very often work together, and their combined usually spells disaster to the U-boat.

"The stories of these fights, which are

# BRITISH TROOPS IN STREETS OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN TOWNS



To persons who have been permitted to visit the villages near the firing line in France the scene pictured above in No. 1 is a familiar one. British troops are shown moving from the front or to the front or from one front to another—we are not permitted to say which. Great enthusiasm marked the arrival of British and French troops in the northern towns of Italy, the soldiers of both nations being welcomed with equal warmth by the Italians. The above photograph (No. 2) shows a regiment of French soldiers marching through Brescia.

# Women "Waacs" Study Ordnance Stores

## Master Telegraphic Codes and Win Distinctive Blue and White Armlets.

**London, Saturday.**—The following, on the work of British women at the front, appeared in a recent issue of the Daily Telegraph from a correspondent "at the base in France":—  
Now every Signaler was a very fine Waac. And a very fine Waac was she—  
Happy, happy shall we be. There's none so fair as can compare With the W.A.A.C.

There is a considerable amount of musical talent and an abounding sense of fun among the girls who are so cheerfully fulfilling the tasks they have taken up. This you judge whenever you attend one of their parties. The lines quoted are from some paper verses, on the plan of "Old King Cole," in which Unit Administrators, Area Controllers and Captains of Army Signallers of a particular corps came in for good humored banter by name. The whole corps always speaks of its members as "Waacs," and unless a standard dictionary of the future gravely adds the word and its origin to its columns there will be trouble for the students yet to be of the war. Signallers, it may be said, are an important section of this new arm, and they are especially proud that they are allowed to wear the blue and white armlet that, under the King's Regulations, is distinctive of the telegraphic service.

"At one base, through which messages of supreme importance are constantly passing, the women are pronounced to be doing excellent work. All have had the full training of the post office and are experts with the Wheatstone automatic system. But some specialized training has been necessary, for certain codes have been adopted and absolute accuracy is essential when single letters or figures are invested with weighty significance and the smallest error might have the gravest results. Very efficient, too, is the telephone service, employing, as at home, a number of highly trained young women. Scotland, it may be said, has furnished a large proportion of the girls carrying out these responsibilities.

### A New Vocabulary.

This question of codes and letters and figures constitutes a bigger difficulty than the outsider would imagine. When a staff

officer escorted our party through a great depot of the Ordnance Department it was quickly realized that these women have to acquire what is literally a new vocabulary to them. Now, no one in the world another it is surely that which touches the technicalities and working parts of modern artillery. Yet here are women who in a very few weeks have learned enough to know in which direction to send forward requisitions concerning 9.2 guns, or trench

mortars, or the mightiest of howitzers. It was not always thus, and mistakes even now are made that recall the favorite story here of the young lady who, when a demand came down for armored hose, gave referred to the authorities charged with the issue of clothing. But even in a department which stores something like 25,000 separate items the mistakes have now come to be few and far between.

### Varieties of Work.

Less exacting at the outset is the work upon which they are entering at the clothing stores, where it is estimated that four women will take the place of every three men formerly engaged there. It is a department of fabulous figures; indeed, the bare mention in tons of the first supplies of winter equipment brought over is almost staggering. Greatcoats, waterproofs, waders, underwear, boots and accessories fill stacks that would seem inexhaustible. Even buttons and the ribbons that belong to the more generally bestowed medals make up a sufficiently impressive total while there are armlets, indicative of specialized work—the white, green, and red of the offensive gas service is one of them—that call for a whole series of wide shelves to contain them; and kitchen equipment, every sort of brush that enters into domestic use, enamel ware and hardware, electrical plant, lamps, stoves, baskets, heavy crockery, are but a few of the things here ranged which it is intended to place in women's charge. It will not be, perhaps, as easy a matter to issue them, for there is a regulation system of catalogue entry, and the exact meanings of vouchers referring to, say, "sponge bath," or "bath-sponge," are not always obvious until the peculiarities of definition have been mastered.

Again, the women were to be seen in an enormous depot concerned with the repair of all sorts of motor vehicles. Its floor space suggests areas as the unit of measurement, and in happier times it was a vast lute factory. Every known pattern of the engine is used by the army, and it follows, therefore, that the spare parts and the details employed involve a classifying and a sorting out of extraordinary complexity. But the system has been well devised and the mechanic engaged on a London General Omnibus Company's chassis will not find his work hindered by being given the various items as used in the Wolsey make.

### Duty a Beginning.

It is not desirable at this juncture to quote the figures that would indicate the extent to which women have replaced men, releasing them to go to the actual front. What may be said, however, is that the advance guard of "Waacs" is but a small company beside those for whom provision is being made in the near future. Repeatedly were camps shown that are coming to completion in which there will be accommodation for 350 to 500 women, and occupied at present by a bare tenth of those numbers. There is one, amid men's base camps, where cooks and waitresses are most urgently wanted.

# Describes British Aeroplane Flight to Constantinople

## Engineer Whose Firm Built Machine Says 2,000 Mile Trip Was Without Accident.

**London, Saturday.**—For the first time the amazing story of a British battle aeroplane's flight to Constantinople from London and its sequel in the bombardment of the German headquarters and the Turkish War Office there was told recently by Mr. Handley Page and Mr. Basil Johnson, whose firm, the Rolls-Royce, Ltd., built the engine that flew the 2,000 miles without a hitch.

Loading up at Hendon, the machine, which with spares and luggage was more than six tons in weight, proceeded to Paris, Lyons, and, to avoid the Alps, continued by way of Marseilles. From Marseilles the journey was by way of Spezia to Pisa, Rome, Naples, and Otranto, which was the last point over friendly country. The next, and perhaps the most difficult stage of the journey, was over the Albanian Alps to Salonica, a trip of 250 miles across mountains varying from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with no suitable place for landing in case of need.

Squadron Commander Savory, who was the chief pilot, told him, said Mr. Handley Page that they could see wild Bulgarian horsemen below, who were running about in every direction, waiting for a chance to kill them if they came down.

From Salonica the aeroplane was sent forth to their base, overhauled the machine, and prepared for a long distance bombing expedition to Constantinople, a distance of about 320 miles.

On their attack, they set forth with sixteen bombs, and on arriving at the Sea of Marmora throttled down, from 2,000 feet to 1,600 feet, the Golden Horn and other points being clearly in view.

After a short stay in the vicinity of Constantinople, and in order to make sure

# America's Food Control Means German Defeat

## British Writer Declares "The Dog Has Begun to Bite the Pig"

**London, Saturday.**—How America's entry into the war has hurt Germany is the subject of an interesting article in the Birmingham Post by Edgar Wallace, author and military correspondent. It is now a case in which "the dog has begun to bite the pig," he says.

"It is as well," Mr. Wallace writes, "to separate the causes of the present German offensives from the circumstances which have made them possible. We know that the stagnation of the Russian front allows the Germans to employ in the west troops which, were the Russian army an active factor in the war, could not have been employed; we know that the Italian has lost nearly 300,000 men in the course of the fighting of the last month; but neither of these facts explains the German offensive plan. For example, the push against the Isonzo was, obviously, uninfluenced by Italian losses—because they had not occurred. The push against Italy was, and is, part of the great scheme which would certainly have been carried out even if Russia had remained loyal to the Alliance.

"The reason is summed up in the word 'America.' I do not particularly refer to the forces which America will put into the field. The German General Staff, I am certain, has no particular fear that in the summer of 1918, when the new American embargo becomes fully operative? We think it will be fairly bad. The German crops were poor—as were all the world's. There is a big shortage of meat and slaughter cattle, and a dearth of fatstock which are bothering him most, apart from coffee and rubber—and it was upon the neutral that he leaned for help in reducing that shortage.

"Nobody can perfectly insane person or a statistician who will believe anything—imagines that the world shortage of food does not affect Germany. It does affect her very seriously. It will affect her worse this year than it did last. "If my theory is sound and well founded we should look to the collapse of the war in June or July. I do not say if the German does not break in the field between now and August. He won't break in the field or starve us in our homes. On the other hand—but perhaps sheer optimism is out of place in this article."

# Germany Appeals to Jews to Court Turks in Palestine

## Professor Delbruck Declares England May Hold Jerusalem Now, but Will Lose City After War.

**Berlin, Saturday.**—Much the most interesting German comment that yet has appeared on the situation in Palestine, which now has been marked by the fall of Jerusalem, is contained in a statement made last week by Professor Delbruck, of the University of Berlin, to a Jewish news agency.

"Dealing especially with Mr. Balfour's communication to Lord Rothschild, Professor Delbruck appealed to the Jews to cling fast to Germany, in the belief that Turkey, as an ally of Germany, will after all emerge from the war without the loss of Palestine. According to the Frankfurter Zeitung Professor Delbruck's statement is:—  
"The English, who have mobilized against us all the States of the world, down to the smallest Central American Republics, are now trying to win in Zionism also an ally against Germany. They do not promise an independent state, and Zionism does not, indeed, aim at it; they do promise an independent religious community in Palestine under their protection.

"It cannot be denied that at the first glance such a promise has seductive attractions for the Jews. England is powerful, guarantees political and economic order, and is tolerant in religion. Nevertheless, it would be very shortsighted if the Zionists were consequently to declare themselves the allies of the Entente. One may think of Zionism as one will, but it is undeniable that it has its spiritual roots in German Judaism, and that it would wither away if its moral conviction with Germany and with German Judaism were to be cut or even interrupted.

"But, apart from this, the political calculation which underlies the English policy will prove deceptive. Although the English may have taken Gaza and may be moving on Jerusalem, and although they may even seize Jerusalem itself, the general result of the war will most certainly take this conquest from them again, even if the conclusion of peace were to confirm English sovereignty in Egypt. It is quite certain that the war will not give the English territorial gains in addition to Egypt; on the contrary, if they keep the Egyptian sovereignty they will have to give compensation for it.

"According to all human calculation therefore the Turks remain the lords of Palestine. Consequently, anybody who desires to promote Zionism has every reason to put himself well with the Turks. And therefore also with the Germans. A Zionism which to-day associates itself with the enemies of Turkey is committing suicide."

### Something Rotten in Germany.

"And that is the position of the neutral. So many millions of tons of foodstuffs which came to her once in the dead days are not coming any more. She is that much shorter of food. We do not know for