

# FIERCEST FIGHT IN ALL HISTORY; ALL ARE HEROES

## How the British Forces Faced Terrific Onslaught.

### GERMANS LIKE TIDAL WAVE

#### No Fear, No Panic Nor Lack of Discipline Shown by British Troops as Mighty Army of Kaiser Drives Them From Mons.

London.—A dispatch to the Times from Amiens gives a connected account of the fighting in northern France. It says:

"First, let it be said that among all the straggling units seen in the fotsam and jetsam of the fiercest fight in history, I saw fear in no man's face. It was not an army of hunted men, nor in all the tales of officers, noncommissioned officers and men, did a single story of the white feather reach me.

"No one could answer for every man, but every British regiment and every battery of which any one had any knowledge had done its duty, and never has duty been more terrible. Since Monday morning the German advance has been one of almost incredible rapidity. The British force fought a terrible fight, which may be called the action of Mons.

#### Hordes Push Forward.

"Smashing its way forward with the force of earthquake or tidal wave went that mighty German army. The swiftness with which it moved was incredible in view of the vast number of men in its ranks. Infantry, artillery and cavalry all pushed forward like a phantom host, so rapidly did it make its way. But it could not be reckoned as a phantom host when it came to fighting quality.

"The crashing charges of its men were deadly. The fire of artillery, ranging from gigantic Krupps down to quick-firers on automobile trucks, was murderous.

"Sunday the German attack was withstood to the utmost limit, and a whole division was flung into the fight. At the end of a long march it had not even time to dig trenches. The expected French supporters do not seem to have been in touch with the British.

"Further to the right the French, after days of gallant fighting, broke and Namur fell. General Joffre was forced to order a retreat along the whole line. The Germans, fulfilling one of the best of all precepts in war, never gave the retreating army a moment of rest. The pursuit was immediate and relentless.

#### Harass Retreating Foe.

"Aeroplanes, Zeppelins, armored motors and cavalry were loosed like arrows from bows and served at once to harass the retreating columns and keep the German staff fully informed of the movements of the allied forces. The British force fell back and desperate fighting took place southward continually.

"The line of retreat ran through Baval, between Valenciennes and Maubeuge, then through Lequesney, where desperate fighting took place. South of that line terrible damage was done to the regiments of the allies.

"I asked a British officer about the casualties. He was guarded in speech; but he replied:

"I'm afraid, sir, that our losses have been very heavy."

"This will not apply to any particular regiment, but to the entire British expeditionary force.

"Apparently every division that came from England has been in action. Some lost nearly all their officers. The survivors remain cheerful and keep up their spirits with the thought that more re-enforcements are on their way.

"The advance of the Germans has been in close formation, with no regard for cover. Whether the allies lay behind an open plain or behind a screen of wooded and hilly territory it was all the same to the German officers. The order invariably was 'Forward, charge!'

#### British Losses Great.

"The British losses are great. I have seen broken bits of many regiments, but let me repeat that there has been no failure in discipline, no panic, no throwing up of the sponge. Every one's temper is sweet and nerves do not show.

"Of the bravery of the Germans, it is not necessary to speak. They advanced in deep sections so slightly extended as to be almost in close order, with little regard for cover. Rushing forward as soon as their own artillery has opened fire behind them on our position, our artillery mowed long

lanes down the centers of sections, so that frequently there was nothing left of them but the outsiders.

"But no sooner is this done than more men run up, rushing over heaps of dead, and reform the sections. Last week so great was their superiority in numbers that they could not more be stopped than the waves of the sea. Their shrapnel is bad though their gunners are excellent at finding the range.

#### Machine Guns Deadly.

"On the other hand their machine guns are of deadly efficacy and very numerous. Their rifle shooting is described as not first class, but their numbers are so great that they can bring on infantry till frequently they and allied troops have met in bayonet assaults.

"Their superiority of numbers in men and guns—especially machine guns—successfully organized system of scouting by aeroplanes and Zeppelins, motors carrying machine guns, their cavalry and their extreme mobility are the elements in their present success.

"To sum up—the first great German effort has succeeded and the British expeditionary force has won imperishable glory.

"The battle was begun on Saturday. The first German attack was delivered with great suddenness and terrific force.

"We were in the trenches waiting for them, one of the soldiers said to me, 'but we didn't expect anything like the smashing blow that began to rain bullets and shells.

#### Fairly Mopped Them Up.

"At first the shells went very wide, for their fire was bad, but after a long time they got our range. Then they fairly mopped us up. I saw shells bursting to the right and left of me; saw many good comrades go out.

"But we stuck. We were able to stick because their infantry shooting was so poor. It was simply laughable. In fact, they couldn't hit us, though their bullets were singing away over our heads as thick as flies.

"Our officers were grand. Every man was proud of them. All the time they kept telling us, 'Keep your heads and shoot straight—take careful aim and watch where you shoot.' We did.

"The Germans came up in thousands. I saw ranks and ranks of them coming along. We swept away one rank and there was another; we swept that away and a third was waiting behind it. On they came over the bodies of their friends, solidly, like wooden soldiers and as regular as a clock, but we wore into them with our rifles terribly.

#### Shells Work Havoc.

"Another soldier described the effect of the German shell fire.

"There are hundreds of our fellows," he said, 'who have nothing but shell wounds—terrible gashees some of them. Their shelling was dreadful once they got our range, though it took them a long time to get it. Their artillery was on a height and had the distinct advantage that it was more powerful than ours.

"So far as numbers were concerned, if it had only been a matter of shooting, we should have laughed at them. But we really did catch it. We did not seem to be properly protected by our own guns, and I think our guns were too far back.

"I saw one great cavalry rush made—a rush that brought them right up to our lines. Our front ranks stood up with their bayonets and our back ranks kept firing.

"We broke them up. Hundreds of them fell out of their saddles and the rest dashed off."

"The mass formation of the kaiser's army appears to have impressed the French and Englishmen very deeply.

"I never saw anything like it, one of them told me. 'You know how we take to cover at once—well, they didn't. Some of the fellows said they saw them lie down, but I can't say I did. They just seemed to roll on and on, but we did hold to our places, and that holding saved us.'

#### Losses Are Enormous.

"Our losses were severe. It is idle to blink at the fact. But they were small, comparatively, to the losses of the enemy. Moreover, our wounded are in many cases only slightly injured. Here, as in Belgium, the German bullets seem to be a less deadly missile than might be expected. It is too sharp.

"The battle continued with little interruption throughout Sunday and Monday. Our men had now fallen back to the positions assigned to them, and the enemy gradually ceased to attack. Apparently they were exhausted.

"There can be no doubt that only in their artillery fire did they really achieve important success.

"Their infantry work is described as laughable; their cavalry, too, was much inferior to ours.

"The full story of the work of the British hussars and lancers has still to be written, but it was glorious. The troopers literally flung themselves on their foes."

adequate equipment and a sufficiency of supplies, under officers trained in the hard lesson so thoroughly learned in the Japanese campaign.

"The history of that campaign shows what Russian soldiers accomplished when badly fed and equipped, but under the conditions of today there is little wonder that the Russian soldier has proved himself a match for the German."

We sometimes sustain a Garden of Eden—for the other fellow's chickens

# WILSON URGES TAX \$100,000,000 EXTRA

## MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO CONGRESS PERSONALLY BY PRESIDENT WILSON.

### IT IS BAD BORROWING TIME

#### Play Safe in Event War Continues.—Ready For Any Contingency.—Keep Treasury Strong.

Washington.—"We shall pay the bill, though we did not deliberately incur it," said President Wilson when presenting before a joint session of Congress his appeal for an emergency internal revenue measure to raise \$100,000,000 the Government's probable loss in customs receipts because of the European war. Prompt action was necessary, the President said, "to keep the treasury strong." His only suggestion as to the method for levying the tax was that sources be chosen that would "begin to yield at once and yield with a certain and constant flow."

The appeal met with quick action. As soon as the President had left the House chamber amidst an outburst of applause, Speaker Clark referred the message to the Ways and Means Committee. Democratic members of the committee met at the call of the chairman, Representative Underwood and began consideration of plans to raise the additional revenue.

Various members suggested sources which they believed would be properly subjected to additional taxation. On the list suggested were:

#### Tax Gasoline.

Gasoline, a tax of one or two cents a gallon; railroad and amusement tickets, a tax of five to ten per cent; beer, an increase of 50 cents a barrel; domestic wines, whiskey, an increase of 15 cents a gallon; proprietary articles; tobacco and tobacco products; chewing gum; soft drinks; playing cards.

The proposal to tax railroad tickets was not received with enthusiasm by members of the committee, although it was estimated that a five per cent tax would raise \$4,000,000. Chairman Underwood said the articles suggested would be gone over and a list of taxable articles agreed on by elimination. This list would be submitted to the Treasury Department probably early next week. When the bill is completed in committee, it probably will be brought into the House under a special rule and hurried through.

President Wilson was given an enthusiastic greeting when he entered the House chamber escorted by Senators Kern, Clarke and Gallinger, and Representatives Underwood, Fitzgerald and Mann. The President said he had come to discharge a duty he wished he could avoid, but made it plain that additional revenue was necessary and that he performed his duty without hesitation or apology.

Unforeseen condition occasioned by the conflict in Europe, he said, had created conditions which unless dealt with promptly might involve consequences of the "most embarrassing and deplorable sort."

To borrow money, the President urged, was unwise, bond issue would make an "untimely and unjustifiable" demand upon money markets, leaving taxation as the only method left to raise revenue. In this situation he appealed "to the profoundly patriotic people of the country" to take up the burden.

The President said: "I come to you today to discharge a duty which I wish with all my heart I might have been spared, but it is a duty which is very clear, and therefore I perform it without hesitation or apology. I come to ask very earnestly that additional revenue be provided for the Government.

#### Huge Falling Off.

"During the month of August there was, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, a falling off of \$10,629,538 in the revenues collected from customs. A continuation of this decrease in the same proportion throughout the current fiscal year would probably mean a loss of customs revenues of from 60 to 100 millions. I need not tell you to what this falling off is due. Conditions have arisen which no man foresaw; they affect the whole world of commerce and economic production and they must be faced and dealt with.

"It would be very unwise to postpone dealing with them. "It would be very dangerous in the present circumstance to create a moment's doubt as to the strength and sufficiency of the Treasury of the United States. Its ability to assist to steady and sustain the financial operations of the country's business.

If the Treasury is known or even thought to be weak, where will be our peace of mind? The whole industrial activity of the country would be chilled and demoralized. Just now the peculiarly difficult financial problems of the moment are being successfully dealt with, with great self-possession and good sense and very sound judgment; but they are only in process of being worked out. If the process of solution is to be completed, no one must be given reason to doubt the solidity and adequacy of the Treasury of the Government, which stands behind the whole method,

### A REMARKABLE WAR STORY

#### Frederick Palmer Now Witnessing Fulfillment of Prophecy Described in "The Last Shot."

Frederick Palmer, the author of the remarkable story, "The Last Shot," is a typical cosmopolitan. He not only knows war and the men who make war, but he knows the world and has been practically all over it.

Mr. Palmer is a native of Pennsylvania, born at Pleasantville in that state in 1873. He was residing in England at the time the Greco-Turkish war of 1896 began and went to the front as a correspondent. At the close of this war he went to the Klondike as a correspondent. He was in the Orient in 1898 when the war between the United States and Spain began, and was with Admiral Dewey at the battle of Manila, reporting it for the London Times and a number of American newspapers. He remained with the American army in the Philippines throughout the campaign against Aguinaldo. When the international expedition for the rescue of the foreign residents in Peking was organized at the time of the Boxer uprising in China he joined it in the capacity of a correspondent for his papers.

From 1900 to 1903 Mr. Palmer saw service in the Central and South American and the Macedonian insurrections. With the breaking out of war between Japan and Russia he joined the first Japanese army in the field as the representative of the London Times and Collier's Weekly, and was also the only correspondent who saw active service with the Japanese army. He was in Constantinople during the Turkish revolution of 1909, and was with the Bulgarian army throughout the Balkan war of 1912-13.

In addition to this active career as a war correspondent, Mr. Palmer has circled the globe with Admiral Dewey, and again with the American battleship fleet in 1907-8. He is familiar with every capital of Europe, and has a personal acquaintance with a very large number of prominent European government officials and military and naval commanders.

Mr. Palmer is now at the front reporting the present war for the papers he represents, and is witnessing the fulfillment of the prophecy contained in his notable story, "The Last Shot."

We have arranged to print Mr. Palmer's remarkable story, "The Last Shot," serially in these columns.

### SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—At their home on the frontier between the Browns and Grays, Marta Gailand and her mother, entertaining Colonel Lanstron, staff intelligence officer of the Browns, injured by a fall in his aeroplane.

CHAPTER II—Ten years later, Westerling, nominal vice but real chief of staff, reinforces South La Tir, meditates on war, and speculates on the comparative ages of himself and Marta, who is visiting in the Gray capital.

CHAPTER III—Westerling calls on Marta. She tells him of her teaching children the follies of war and martial patriotism, begs him to prevent war while he is chief of staff, and predicts that if he makes war against the Browns he will not win.

CHAPTER IV—On the march with the 53d of the Browns Private Stransky, anarchist, deserters war and played-out patriot, and is placed under arrest. Colonel Lanstron overhearing, begs him of saying the anarchist will fight well when enraged and is "all man."

CHAPTER V—Lanstron calls on Marta at her home. He talks with Feller, the gardener. Marta tells Lanstron that she believes Feller to be a spy. Lanstron confesses it is true.

CHAPTER VI—Lanstron shows Marta a telephone which Feller has concealed in a secret passage under the tower for use to benefit the Browns in war emergencies, pointing out its value as being in the center of the fighting zone in case of war. Marta consents for it and Feller to remain for the present. Lanstron declares his love for Marta.

CHAPTER VII—Westerling and the Gray premier plan to use a trivial international affair to foment warlike patriotism in army and people and strike before declaring war. Feltow, Brown chief of staff, and Lanstron, made vice, discuss the trouble and the Brown defense. Feltow reveals his plans to Lanstron.

CHAPTER VIII—At the frontier the two armies lie crouched for attack and defense. In the town with the non-combatants fleeing from the danger zone, Marta hears her child pupils recite the peace oath.

CHAPTER IX—The Gray army crosses the border line and attacks. The Browns check them. Artillery, infantry, aeroplanes and dirigibles engage Stransky, rising to make the anarchist speech of his life, draws the Gray artillery fire. Nicked by a shrapnel splinter he goes Berserk and fights "all a man."

CHAPTER X—Marta has her first glimpse of war in its modern, cold, scientific, murderous brutality. She allows the secret telephone to remain.

CHAPTER XI—The Browns fall back to the Gailand house. Stransky forages. Marta sees a night attack.

CHAPTER XII—The Grays attack in force. The call of the fight too strong for Feller, he leaves his secret telephone and goes back to his guns. Hand to hand fighting. The Browns fall back again.

CHAPTER XIII—Marta asks Lanstron over the secret telephone to appeal to Feltow to stop the fighting. Vandalism by Gray soldiers in the Gailand house which, Marta is notified, will be made Westerling's headquarters.

CHAPTER XIV—Westerling and his staff occupy the Gailand house. At tea with Marta, Westerling begins to woo her; disclosing his selfish ambitions. Marta apparently throws her fortunes with the Grays and offers to give valuable information.

CHAPTER XV—Marta calls up Lanstron on the secret telephone and with his assistance plans to give Westerling false information that will trap the Gray army. Westerling, after questioning her, forms his plan of attack upon what he has learned.

CHAPTER XVI—The Grays win Bordir. Marta continues her role of spy and through her Westerling is led to concentrate the attack on the main line at Engadir. A lack of information is suspected, but the source is undiscovered. Positions are won but the Browns always give way grudgingly, never taken by surprise.

CHAPTER XVII—Bouchard is relieved as staff intelligence officer, and in going, accuses Marta. Westerling thinks him mad.

CHAPTER XVIII—The Grays take the apron of Engadir in an attack which is watched by Marta and Westerling, who is at first suspicious of her, but reassures himself. Feltow dies suddenly and Lanstron succeeds him.

CHAPTER XIX—Westerling plans the main attack on Engadir. Marta telephones the plan to Lanstron. Westerling watches the fight from the terrace, Marta covertly watching him. The Grays are routed.

CHAPTER XX—The isolation and capture always the portion of an unsuccessful general are upon Westerling. In the midst of jubilation and plans to follow up his victory, Lanstron finds the secret telephone wire cut. A saboteur of the Grays has discovered the wire, heard Marta's voice and accuses her before Westerling. He escapes from his now untenable headquarters and Marta is safe.

CHAPTER XXI—Retreat and pursuit flow around the Gailand house. Marta is wounded. Lanstron appears and heads a charge.

CHAPTER XXII—The Brown staff congratulate Marta. Lanstron stops the pursuit and untolds to the staff the final move in Feltow's war plan. Westerling suicides. The Brown ministry receive a note from the staff advising them they will not pursue the Grays into their own country. The ministry is forced to accept the conditions and make peace. Marta wins the peace she worked for and Lanstron wins her.

## The Last Shot

By  
FREDERICK PALMER

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# The LAST SHOT

By FREDERICK PALMER

A REMARKABLE story of war as waged with modern armaments in which aeroplanes and dirigibles play an important part. A startling prophecy of the conflict in which the powers of Europe are now engaged

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### CZAR OF RUSSIA CAN RAISE 20,000,000 MEN

London.—A dispatch to the Post from St. Petersburg comments on the excellence of the Russian army and the inexhaustible supply of men to draw upon. It says further:

"Russia will have no difficulty in finding 20,000,000 men to complete the work begun by its trained fighting forces. Moreover, this is the first time in the memory of men that the Russian army has taken the field with