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EIGHTEEN PAGES—SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 20 1915—EIGHTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,547

TWO BRITISH BATTLESHIPS AND ONE FRENCH SUNK BY MINES WHILE BOMBARDING THE DARDANELLES

H.M.S. Irresistible, H.M.S. Ocean and French Cruiser Bouvet Struck Mines Floating in the Stream, After Reducing Several Turkish Forts on Straits, and Sank Almost Immediately---Loss of Life on British Battleships Was Small, But Almost the Entire Crew of the Bouvet Went Down With Their Ship---British Admiralty Anticipated the Loss and Other Ships Were Sent to the Dardanelles Several Days Ago to Replace Expected Casualties---Two Other Ships Damaged by Shells---Reduction of Forts is Being Continued---Panic in Constantinople Following News of Russian Fleet.

Town of Dardanelles is in Flames and Allied Fleet's Bombarding Operations Gaining Every Success.

LONDON, March 19, 11.19 p.m.—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines while engaged with the remainder of the allied fleet in attacking the forts in the narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

The crews of the two British ships were virtually all saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine and most of her crew were lost. The Bouvet sank within three minutes of the time she hit the mine.

The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines, but the British Admiralty asserts that the Turks and the Germans set floating containers of explosives adrift, and these were carried down by the current on to the allied ships gathered inside the entrance of the straits.

All Were Old Ships

All the ships that were sunk were old ones, the Bouvet having been completed nearly twenty years ago, and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1898. They were very useful, however, for the work in which they were engaged in the Dardanelles. The sunken British ships are being replaced by the battleships Queen and Implacable, vessels of a similar type. They are said to have started sometime ago for near eastern waters in anticipation of just such losses as have occurred. The other ships engaged in the fighting, the British battle cruiser Inflexible and the French battleship Gaulois, were hit by shells and damaged.

Casualties Not Heavy

The British casualties, according to the official British report, "were not heavy, considering the scale of operations."

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is stated that the operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked were those on either side of Kephez Bay and on Kephez Point, outside of the Narrows, and those on Kilid Bahr and Chanak in the Narrows.

The Kephez forts replied strongly when the battleships advanced, firing up the Dardanelles, and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that these forts finally were silenced and a bombardment of those in the Narrows was under way when the three battleships struck the mines. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood that the engagement was resumed today.

British Statement

The British admiralty gave out the following statement regarding operations at the Dardanelles.

"An account of the operations at the Dardanelles on the 18th of March:

"Mine sweeping having been in progress during the last ten days inside the straits a general attack was delivered by the British and French fleets yesterday (Thursday) morning upon the fortresses at the narrows. At 10.45 a.m. the Queen Elizabeth, Inflexible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson bombarded forts J, L, T, U and V, while the Triumph and Prince George fired at batteries F, E and H. A heavy fire was opened on the ships from howitzers and field guns.

"At 12.22 o'clock the French squadron, consisting of the Suffren, Gaulois, Charlemagne and Bouvet advanced up the Dardanelles and engaged the forts at closer range. Forts J, U, F, and E replied strongly. Their fire was silenced by the ten battleships inside the straits, all the ships being hit several times during this part of the action.

All Fort Fire Ceased

"By 1.25 p.m. all the forts had ceased firing. The Vengeance, Irresistible, Albion, Ocean, Swiftsure and Majestic then advanced to relieve the six other battleships inside the straits. As the French squadron, which had engaged the forts in a most brilliant fashion, were passing out the Bouvet was blown up by a drifting mine. She sank in 36 fathoms, north of Erankeui village in less than three minutes.

"At 2.34 p.m. the relief battleship renewed the attack on the forts which again opened fire. The attack on the forts was maintained while the operations of the mine sweepers continued.

"At 4.09 p.m. the Irresistible quitted the line, listing heavily, and at 5.50 o'clock sank, having probably struck a drifting mine. At 6.05 o'clock the Ocean, also having struck a mine sank. Both vessels sank in deep water, practically the whole of their crews having been removed safely under a hot fire.

"The Gaulois was damaged by gunfire. The Inflexible had her forward control position hit by a heavy shell and requires repair.

"The bombardment of the forts and the mine sweeping operations terminated when darkness fell. The damage to the forts, effected by the prolonged direct fire of the very powerful forces employed, cannot yet be estimated and a further report will follow. The loss of the ships was caused by mines drifting with the current which were encountered in areas hitherto swept clear, and this danger will require special treatment.

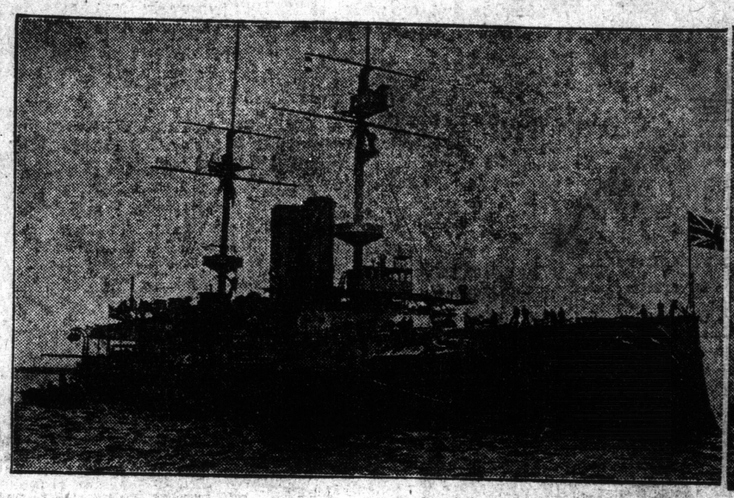
"The British casualty personnel was not so heavy considering the scale of the operations, but practically the whole of the crew of the Bouvet were lost with the ship, an internal explosion having apparently supervened on the explosion of the mine.

"The Queen and Implacable, which have been despatched from England to replace the ships' casualties in anticipation of this operation, are due to arrive immediately, thus bringing the British fleet up to its original strength. The operations are continuing with the naval and military forces available on the spot.

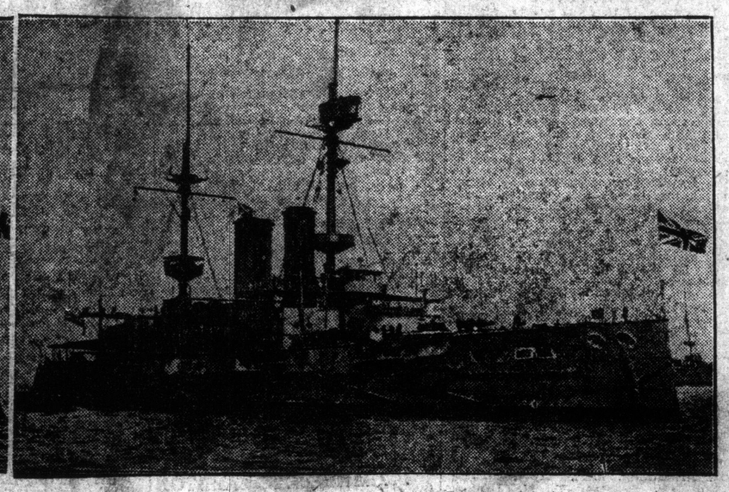
"On the 16th inst., Vice-Admiral Carden, who had been incapacitated by illness, was succeeded in the chief command by Rear-Admiral John Michael DeRobeck, with the acting rank of vice-admiral."

"The allied fleet entered the Straits of the Dardanelles at 8 o'clock this morning," says an Athens despatch to the Havas Agency, based on information received from Tenedos.

TWO BRITISH BATTLESHIPS SUNK IN THE DARDANELLES



H. M. S. Ocean, battleship, 12,900 tons; cost $4,500,000; length, 390 ft.; beam, 74 ft.; draught, 26 ft.; speed, 18 knots. Armed with four 12 in., twelve 6 in. and eighteen small Q. F. guns. Sister ships: H. M. S. Vengeance, Albion, Glory, Goliath and Cornwallis.



H. M. S. Irresistible, battleship, 15,000 tons; cost $5,000,000; length, 400 ft; beam, 75 ft.; draught, 27 ft.; speed, 18 knots. Armed with four 12 in., twelve 6 in. and eighteen small Q.F. guns. Sister ships: H. M. S. Queen, Prince of Wales, London, Bulwark, Venerable, Formidable and Implacable.

Russian Fleet Has Arrived Off the Bosphorus, and the News Has Caused a Panic in Constantinople.

"The British battleship Queen Elizabeth was leading. She was followed in order by the Ocean, Inflexible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson, and then by the French warships Gaulois, Suffren, Bouvet and Charlemagne. The weather conditions were excellent. The reports of cannon could be heard from the Gulf of Saros, bombarding indirectly Kilid Bahr.

"The warships stationed at the entrance of the straits bombarded Dardanos and Kilid Bahr. The line extended from Kum Kale, on the Asiatic side, at the entrance to the straits, to Kalantina. The line advanced as far as Cavofonia, where a powder arsenal situated below the Town of Dardanelles was blown up.

"Forts Tchimenlik, Kilid Bahr and Yildiz Tabia replied with a heavy fire, shells falling on all sides of the warships, and some even on the ships themselves.

Violent Cannonading

"One ship entered close to Dardanos, but was forced to retreat before a violent cannonading.

"A shell exploded on the British battle cruiser Inflexible, wounding several men, who were immediately transported to the hospital ship.

"The Town of Dardanelles is in flames.

"At six o'clock in the evening the action had concluded, but was partially resumed during the night. A majority of the forts suffered severely."

Fire Was Intense

The French ministry of marine tonight gave out the following communication:

"In the course of the operations in the Dardanelles on March 18 the allied naval forces were subjected to a very intense fire and warships ran against floating mines in the straits. French and English battleships violently bombarded forts Kilid Bahr, Chanak Kalessi and also forts Souain Pere, Dardanus and Kephec Point.

"The results during the course of this hot day were acquired at the cost of a considerable loss. The Bouvet was sunk following the explosion of a mine. The Gaulois was temporarily put out of action by reason of damage caused by the fire of the enemy. The English fleet sufferend equally, two of its battleships being sunk by mines. The losses, painful as they are, will not stop the course of the operations.

"As soon as the news of the accident to the Bouvet was received the minister of marine sent a despatch to the battleship Henri IV which was on the Syrian coast, to replace the Bouvet. Information as to the fate of the crew of the Bouvet has not yet been received. A certain communication permits the statement that part of the crew, the exact number unknown, has been saved."

Amethyst Cut Cable

"The casualties reported sustained on the British cruiser Amethyst were the result of a smart piece of work which she performed in the Dardanelles when, it is stated, she was entrusted with the difficult task of cutting the telegraph cable connecting Kalid-Bahr with Chanak," says the Malta correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company. The correspondent continues:

"She succeeded in lifting and cutting the cable undetected, and had started her return journey when she was discovered. She then had to run the gauntlet of forts on both sides of the narrows, becoming the target of a veritable hail of fire. Going at full speed, altho frequently hit, she succeeded in getting beyond the range of the guns and reaching the entrance to the straits.

Turkish Announcement

The Turkish war office announced that the Bouvet was sunk inside the strait by Turkish forts. It was stated

(Continued on page 5, column 2.)

LAWLESS OUTBREAK IN INDIA TO BE STERNLY SUPPRESSED

Russians Begin New Invasion of East Prussia From Extreme N. E. Corner

CANADIANS ALL KEYED RIGHT UP FOR WAR'S TASK

Entire Contingent as Chipper as Winning Baseball Team Over Action.

VISITED IN TRENCHES

Germans Kept Constantly Worried Lest Attack Be Sprung on Them.

BY FREDERICK PALMER.
Special Cable to The Toronto World.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 18, via London, March 19, 8.01 p.m.—"Gangway! Look out for that bunch of wagons!" a voice with an American accent called, and one knew he was near the part of the line held by the Canadians.

It was pitch dark and at the hour when the supplies go to the trenches. There was not a light on any vehicle or on any habitation, but after stumbling along the correspondent passed thru an open door and the darkened hall of a farmer's house and entered the brilliantly illuminated room, with thickly curtained windows of the brigade headquarters. An officer was talking over the telephone. He had just had word that a man had been shot in the back by a concealed sniper in the rear of the trenches.

Mr. Palmer Welcomed.

The commander and his officers gathered around the correspondent from the United States, whose request

(Continued on page 3, column 3.)

Italy and Greece Must Move

Now is the time when Italy and Greece must come in if they value their future and their rights. Germany would put them off the map for all time if she could. And if they wish to see the Mediterranean maintained as the great central seaboard of modern civilization they can no longer stand aside. Not that we must call them, but that they must move of themselves.

We believe that there is an understanding between them and the allies now fighting at sea, and that the events of yesterday will be the signal for them to join in the offensive. Russia is about due to act from Black Sea end, and some surprising and extensive movements may be looked for from now on—movements which will work out in the direction of a triumph of the allies and their cause, and the humiliation and destruction of this knavish combination of German and Turk.

Now a Fight to a Finish

So we must keep at the task, send more ships and still more ships, and lose more ships, but keep at it, until the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora, the Bosphorus and the Black Sea are made a free highway to all nations and no longer the abode of intrigue, inhumanity, barbarism. In the words of our version of the old Greek hymn:

Christian, dost thou see them,
On the holy ground,
How the troops of Midian
Prowl and prowl around!

Christian, up and smite them,
Counting gain but loss;
Smite them by the merit
Of the Holy Cross.

* * * * * * * * * *

Christian, dost thou hear them,
How they speak thee fair?
"Always fast and vigil
Always watch and prayer?"

Christian, answer boldly
"While I breathe I pray."
Peace shall follow battle,
Night shall end in day.

We may have to lose fifty per cent. of our fleet, but we must lose it. The fall of Constantinople, however, means the end of all the atrocities and all the barbarities that were the outcome of Turkish misrule; and a new birth of civilization in that historic centre must come with that fall.

GERMAN FORCE SURPRISED BY RUSSIAN MOVE

Guards of Memel Lose Severely and Flee Before New Advance.

ENEMY CLEARED OUT

Bombardment of Ossowetz Ending Thru Exhaustion of Beseigers.

BY FREDERICK RENNET.
Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, March 19.—The Russians have won a complete success by their sudden rapid advance into the extreme northern strip of German territory facing Memel. The German force guarding the frontier was surprised and lost severely before it fled across the sand flats to the Baltic fortress.

All the middle section of the northern front from the junction of the Bobr and Narew Rivers to the Augustowo forest is now closed against war operations. The Germans have ceased bringing fresh ammunition along the Lyck road, which projects like a breakwater across the marshy swamps. The bombardment of Ossowetz is ending thru exhaustion. The immense tract of peat and moss on both sides of the Lyck road, covering the entire right bank of the Bobr River, is now cleared of living troops.

Continued on page 5, column 1.)

Great Events in the Mediterranean

As we predicted the other day, the great war panorama of Europe was shifting to the Mediterranean, and we stated also that it would be of the most momentous character.

Yesterday's events bear this out. Three ships of the allied fleet were destroyed by the enemy's mines when attempting to force a passage thru the Dardanelles.

We have simply to accept these losses as a necessary part of the great work that the allies have undertaken. And we must steel ourselves for other and greater ones, by land as well as by sea. But we're going to win, and must win, no matter the cost.

It is a fight for the life and for the free institutions of the empire against the most determined, the most highly organized and most relentless enemy we ever faced.

The German Hun has joined up with the crafty Turk, and the two today are the scourge of Europe, that must be, the one treated as a mad dog, the other put out of Christian Europe, as a menace to any modern social system. England is being fitly repaid for all the foolish cuddling she has devoted to the sultan and his ways for two centuries. The Turk couldn't go straight if he tried, and Germany has lost any sense of civilized proportion. They are two of a kind, and we must confound their knavish tricks!

Today's the Day—For Hats.

Business in hats at Dineen's, 140 Yonge Street, will be brisk and breezy for months now, but Saturday will remain the "star" day of the week. For today big preparations have been made, and with the shipments that have been opened up during the week from the foremost makers in the world, selling should be really heavy. The position held by this house in the hat business is unique and extends over 50 years. In that time the most exclusive makers such as Henry Heath, Christy, and Hillgate, London, Eng.; Dunlap, New York, and Stetson, Philadelphia, have placed their faith for this district, almost exclusively, in the hands of the Dineen Company. Come in sometime today—store is open till 10 p.m.

INDIA ADOPTS MEASURES TO CHECK REVOLT

Anti-British Agitation "Engineered From Pacific Coast of America."

MALCONTENTS ACTIVE

Violence in Bengal and Looting and Incendiarism in Punjab.

LONDON, March 19.—(Thru Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—A special despatch from Delhi, India, says:

"At today's meeting of the council the viceroy, Lord Hardinge, announced the introduction of a bill providing for special measures to secure the public safety, the defence of India, and for speedier trials for certain offences. His excellency said that the bill should not be considered as a slur upon the people of India; but the government had information that such a measure was absolutely necessary to meet possible emergencies. Nobody, he said, was more jealous of the honor of India than himself. But he was not disposed to allow the honor and fair name of India to be tarnished by the criminal acts of a few unbalanced minds.

Signs of Disloyalty.

Sir Reginald Cradock, in introducing the bill, subsequently congratulated

(Continued on page 5, column 3.)