

FLEET OF BRITISH AIRSHIPS BOMBARD GERMAN POSITIONS IN BELGIAN TOWNS

HAIL OF BOMBS FROM BRITISH AREOPLANES CAUSE GREAT DAMAGE TO GERMAN POSITIONS

Aerial Warfare Waged on Largest Scale in Its History—Thirty-four Airships in Raid and Not a Casualty.

BRITISH WARSHIPS BOMBARD COAST TOWNS DURING THE AIR RAID.

Claude Graham-White Among the Aviators, Fell Into Sea and Rescued by Warship—Commander Sampson Led the Raiders.

London, Feb. 12.—Aerial warfare was waged today on the largest scale in its history, and under adverse circumstances, from the standpoint of the weather. British airmen, buffeting banks of snow in the air, swept over cities of northern Belgium held by the Germans and dropped bombs on Ostend, Bruges and other places.

Thirty-four aeroplanes and seaplanes of the British navy took part in the operations, and all of them later returned safely to their base, without casualty to their drivers, although two of the machines were damaged. The raid was made in order to prevent the development of submarine bases and establishments which might further endanger British warships and merchantmen.

Although no submarines were seen, the British Admiralty statement indicates that the raid had satisfactory results, for considerable damage is said to have been done to German gun positions, railway lines and railway stations. The Ostend station is reported to have been set on fire, and that at Blankenberghe to have been badly damaged. German mine sweepers at Zeebrugge also came in for a hail of bombs, but the damage done to them has not been stated.

At various points the airmen were received by the Germans with firing from anti-aerial guns and rifles. None of the airmen are reported to have been wounded in these attacks.

One of the machines, driven by Flight Commander Claude Graham-White, among the most intrepid of the British flyers, fell into the sea while returning to its base after the raid was over, and the aviator had a narrow escape from drowning. Fortunately for him a cruiser was nearby, and picked him up, and then towed his aeroplane into port.

Wing Commander Samson, who previously had made several notable raiding expeditions in an aeroplane, was in chief command of the raiding aviators. He was assisted by Wing Commander Longmore and Squadron Commanders Courtney, Porte and Rathorne.

During the raid warships bombarded the German positions along the coast.

London, Feb. 12.—The official information bureau tonight issued the following statement:

"Thirty-four naval aeroplanes raided Bruges, Zeebrugge, Ostend and Blankenberghe (all in Belgium). Claude Graham-White fell. He was rescued."

A description of the raid was given out by the official information bureau as follows:

"The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement:

"During the last twenty-four hours combined aeroplane and seaplane operations have been carried out by the naval wing in the Bruges, Zeebrugge, Blankenberghe and Ostend districts, with a view to preventing the development of submarine bases and establishments. Thirty-four naval aeroplanes and seaplanes took part.

"Great damage is reported to have been done to the Ostend railway station, which, according to present information, has probably been burned to the ground. The railway station at Blankenberghe was damaged, and the railway lines were torn up in many places.

"Bombs were dropped on gun positions at Middelkerke, and also on the power station and the German mine-sweeping vessels at Zeebrugge, but the damage done is unknown.

GRAHAM-WHITE RESCUED FROM SEA AFTER FALL FROM AIRSHIP

"During the attack the machines encountered heavy banks of snow. No submarines were seen.

"Flight-Commander Graham-White fell into the sea, off Nieuport, and was rescued by a French vessel; although exposed to a heavy gun fire from rifles, anti-aircraft guns, machine guns, etc.

"All of the pilots are safe. Two machines were damaged.

"The seaplanes and aeroplanes were under the command of Wing-Commander Samson, assisted by Wing-Commander Longmore and Squadron Commanders Porte, Courtney and Rathorne."

Claude Graham-White is one of the best known aviators, on account of his daring exploits, and his success as a racer. He has made several trips to the United States, on one of which, in the fall of 1910, he earned \$75,000 in prizes. He has been in several accidents, but was never injured seriously. Last September he was appointed Flight-Commander in the British navy. His wife was Miss Dorothy Taylor of New York.

BRITAIN'S REPLY TO U. S. PROTEST IS A LENGTHY DOCUMENT

Reply to U. S. Protest Contains About 9,000 Code Words—A Great Mass of Statistics Included.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Transmission of the first instalment of Great Britain's supplementary note in answer to the American protest against interference with neutral shipping by the British fleet was completed today, and the State Department's cable experts began deciphering it. About three thousand code words have been received, and it is understood that it probably will be two or three days before the communication is ready for consideration by Secretary Bryan.

Beyond the fact that this supplementary note is generally an expansion of the arguments briefly set out in the preliminary British note of January 10, little is known here of its contents. It is understood, however, that among the new matters introduced is the recent German decree expropriating the grain supply of the empire.

The great length of the communication is accounted for by the mass of statistics embodied in it, bearing on the differences between normal and war times trade by neutral countries in such raw material as copper and commodities which might be of use to the military forces of a belligerent.

One of the principal arguments set out in the note is understood to be in support of the right of the British government to take suspected ships into port for inspection to determine the nature of their cargoes.

PATRICIA'S WERE IN ACTION FOUR TIMES

Have Lost 3 Officers and 18 Men—A Canadian Casualty List to be Published in London Henceforth.

London, Feb. 13.—As a result of representations made by the editor of Canada in regard to the inconvenience resulting from the non-publication of the Canadian contingent, the chairman of the Committee for the Welfare of the Canadian Contingent, has written stating that the Canadian record office will hereafter give out the casualty lists, which will be available forty-eight hours after the official despatches are announced in Ottawa, thereby insuring that relatives shall have time to hear official news before it appears in the press.

The total list of casualties in the Princess Patricia Regiment, up to Feb. 6, shows that two officers were killed, one died of wounds, two were wounded; while among the men, thirteen were killed, four died of wounds and one of disease and twenty-six were wounded. The dates of the casualties indicate that the Patricia's were in action four times, and for a period of four days on each occasion. The Canadian hospital at Shorncliffe has, for the first time, received wounded Canadians for treatment, two coming to the institution this week. Hitherto the patients have been Belgians. There are now twenty-three soldiers in the hospital.

TURN BACK HANDS OF CLOCK AT LLOYD'S

London, Feb. 13.—Lloyd's witnessed a scene of excitement Friday around the insurance market where, on account of the rush of business, the clock was turned back, and the closing time postponed two hours. The demand for insurance was caused by the German threat of submarine activity, beginning Feb. 12, and owners were anxious to get fully insured before the rates advanced further.

QUIET IN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY

House Discusses Bill to Prevent Pollution of Navigable Streams by Sewage from Cities.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—That legislation to prevent cities from dumping raw sewage into navigable streams will probably be passed this session would appear from a discussion of the question by the House this afternoon. The bill introduced at two previous sessions by Mr. Geo. L. Brabury, of Selkirk, for the prevention of the pollution of navigable waters got its second reading, with an amendment added by its sponsor to give the government power to exclude certain waters from its operation. It was then sent to committee but as some opposition developed to longer delay in giving it effect, it was referred with the understanding that the committee should report to the House early in the session.

Mr. Brabury's bill prohibits the placing of any sewage or decomposing or harmful matter into any navigable stream, or stream flowing into navigable water, and fixes a penalty for municipalities, corporations or individuals who so offend. Mr. Brabury explained that he had not certain objections to his former bill by inserting an amendment, empowering the government to remove any water from the operation of the act when it so desired. Statistics and evidence given before last year's committee showed that almost everywhere sewage and refuse could be prevented by legislation to prevent the pollution of drinking water.

Hon. J. D. Hazen thought the bill should be referred to a committee until the report of the International Joint Commission, which had been considering the matter of pollution of boundary waters, had been received. He pointed out that drastic legislation against depositing sewage into navigable streams would cost the city of Montreal alone seven or eight million dollars and would work hardships in other cases.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier approved the object of the bill, but thought that, as present drafted, it would work a hardship in unsettled districts, where every pioneer who built a saw-mill on a navigable water would be liable to punishment for pollution in such districts. He thought the bill should be drafted to give the government power to proclaim certain areas where the bill would not apply, such as in the larger cities and towns.

Will Go Back to Committee.

Hon. George Graham said the question of disease in the water supply was one in which all members living in Ottawa did not know when they would be interested. In Brockville there were more than 100 cases of typhoid, said to be due to St. Lawrence river water. He favored immediate action in regard to the bill, since while the House was waiting the people were dying.

Mr. F. B. Carvell said he was ready to vote on the bill now.

Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, as former chairman of the International Joint Commission, Canadian section, stated that he thought it would be a breach of faith for the government to pass legislation of this kind, in face of the fact that it had referred the question of boundary waters to the commission.

On Mr. Brabury's acknowledging the force of Sir Wilfrid's remarks that the bill, as at present, would work a hardship to outlying districts, it was decided to let the bill go back to a committee, which will be appointed tomorrow on motion of Hon. Sir Hazen.

INDEPENDENCE OF POLAND DECLARED?

Petrograd Hears Austria and Germany Have So Decried and Convention to be Held at Cracow to Choose King.

Petrograd, Feb. 12.—News has reached here from an apparently authentic source that Germany and Austria have declared the independence of Poland, to become operative

CARPATHIAN PASSES HELD BY RUSSIANS

Correspondent of Berlin Paper Says Fighting in Mountain Passes Was Fierce—Kaiser With Army in the East.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 12.—A correspondent of the Lokai Anzeiger, who is in the Carpathians, telegraphs his paper of the very heavy fighting recently in the Dukia Pass region. The Russians, he says, were determined to break through at any sacrifice. It appeared at first impossible to check their attack, and they gained slowly but steadily. In the last three days, however, they have been brought to a standstill, but they are still on Hungarian soil, and the heights of the pass are in their hands.

The Berlin Version.

Berlin, Feb. 12 (by wireless to Sayville).—The following statement was issued today at army headquarters, under date of Feb. 12:

"In the western war theatre only artillery duels took place. The enemy expended an enormous amount of ammunition against German positions in Champagne, without gaining any success worth mentioning. Near Soissons the enemy attempted an infantry attack, but was repulsed with the loss of 150 prisoners.

"The number of prisoners in the Argonne was reported yesterday to have been increased by one officer and 119 men. Northwest of Verdun several of the enemy's trenches were taken. A French counter attack, made under a Geneva flag, was repulsed with considerable loss for the enemy. The fortress of Verdun was shelled by German aviators with about one hundred bombs. At Sudelkopf, in the Vosges, the French succeeded in occupying a small outpost trench in front of the German positions.

"Eastern theatre: The Emperor arrived on the battlefield on the East Prussian frontier. Our operations there forced the Russians rapidly to give up their positions east of the Masurian Lakes. At some places the fighting is continuing. So far about 25,000 prisoners have been made. More than twenty guns and thirty machine guns have been taken. The amount of war material taken cannot yet be estimated.

"In Poland, on the right bank of the Vistula, the Germans continued their offensive reported yesterday. They took Sierpek and made some hundreds of prisoners.

"On the left bank of the Vistula there is no change."

The Geneva flag referred to above is the emblem of the Red Cross, adopted at the International Convention at Geneva in 1864.

SAYS AUSTRALIA BEHIND CANADA

Warm Discussion Going on Contribution of Men in the Combination of Men in the Present War.

Melbourne, Jan. 12. (Correspondence of the Associated Press).—An interesting newspaper discussion has arisen in Australia over the question whether the Commonwealth is doing its duty in the number of troops it is sending to the war.

Joseph Cook, former Liberal Premier, and Senator E. D. Miller, the former Minister for Defence in Cook's Cabinet, who are now both members of the opposition, are siding with various papers which charge that Australia is behind Canada, and even New Zealand, in showing its loyalty to the Empire. They contend that at least 100,000 men should be despatched from Australia this year, whereas the Fishery Ministry now in power is providing for only three thousand volunteers monthly, in addition to the first contingent of 20,000.

The Minister of Defence, Senator Pearce, declares that the government is doing all that it can, and that by June 1, Australia will be represented at the front or in Egypt where the first expeditionary force is now in training—by some forty thousand fully equipped soldiers.

February 14, when it is planned to hold a convention at Cracow, Galicia, for the purpose of choosing a king. It is stated that Archduke Karl Stephen of Austria is a likely candidate for the throne.

TERRIFIC DESTRUCTION IN ENEMY'S RANKS BY SHELLS FROM BR. ARMY'S NEW HOWITZERS

New Guns of England's Forces in France Prove Superiority Over Enemy's—Detonation of Shells Can be Heard 20 Miles Away—House Blown Up into Air by Lyddite Shell.

EYE-WITNESS DESCRIBES RECENT ARTILLERY DUELS ON WESTERN FRONT.

Captured Prisoners Despondent—Letters Found on Dead Germans Tell of Increasing Shortage of Food in German Towns—Say Schoolboys Being Enrolled.

London, Feb. 12.—The British army in France is now using heavy howitzers which, according to a report from the official "eye-witness" with the expeditionary force, have gained ascendancy over the heavy German guns. These howitzers, he states, were used in successful attacks on the German positions in the brick fields south of La Basse Canal a week ago tonight.

"Our heavy howitzers took part in this bombardment, their fire being directed on the railway triangle," the "eye-witness" says. "The boom of these pieces and the detonations of their shells, were heard twenty miles away above the roar of the other artillery, while to those close at hand the shrieking of the great projectiles, through the air, was most impressive, as were the volumes of smoke and debris being blown bodily into the air, and as they burst among the brick stacks they created great havoc among the enemy."

"The assault was launched against a strong position among the stacks of bricks held by the Germans. Our storming columns rushed the work from three sides at once and captured it with very little loss, for, as prisoners afterward stated, the noise of the bursting shells was so great, and the clouds of dust which the defenders were surrounded were so thick that they did not observe our men advancing until too late. At the same time trenches to the north of this point, between it and the canal, were stormed by another party. By seizing these points we were enabled to occupy a continuous line southwards from our forward position on the canal which formed an advantageous position in front of the brick fields.

"We captured nineteen wounded prisoners, in addition to many wounded, a trench mortar and machine guns. The Germans left seven trenches they were occupying on an embankment, at significant."

"The Germans, however, showed no inclination to accept this reverse, for in the early hours of Feb. 7, a body of them advanced along the canal bank, shouting out: 'Don't shoot. We are engineers.' This form of stratagem unfortunately for the enemy, has now lost its novelty. Our men held their fire until the supposed sappers were only a few yards away, and then opened with a machine gun with the result that the engineers fell back, leaving thirty dead bodies in front of their line. In the afternoon another attack was attempted, but it melted away under our artillery fire and did not arrive at close quarters.

"A great feature of the recent fighting has been the accuracy of our artillery fire. On one occasion our guns accomplished the feat of blowing the Germans out of trenches they were occupying on an embankment, at which was killed by a stray bullet.

Fight Over Ship Bill Shifts to The House

New Compromise Bill Calls for Organization of Shipping Board, With 40 Millions Appropriation, To Engage In Shipping for 2 Years After War Ends—Ships Then to be Turned Over to Navy Department.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The fight over the proposed compromise to secure its passage.

The administration counter proposal, as it was being framed tonight, blocked by determined Republican opposition was displaced as the unfinished business, and a closure rule, designed to forcibly terminate the filibuster, was taken up.

Administration forces began work on a compromise bill to be passed through the House. Leaders on the side of the capital, however, were far from confident that the proposed compromise would unite the divided Senate Democrats, or win support from Republicans. They declared the administration did not concede enough in

LONDON PRESS COMMENTS ON U. S. NOTES

London, Feb. 13 (1:25 a.m.).—Some of the London morning papers, notably the Times and the Daily Telegraph, apparently are awaiting the publication of the text of the note sent by the United States government to Germany and England, dealing respectively with Germany's sea war zone proclamation and with the use of neutral flags by British merchantmen, before commenting generally. How-

PRINCE ALBERT HAS REJOINED HIS SHIP

London, Feb. 13.—Prince Albert, son of King George, who was operated on for appendicitis last September, has been passed by the medical board and rejoined his ship.