

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR

THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1918

TWO CENTS

BATTLE RAGING ON SECTOR ABOUT VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

British Regained Ground and Took Prisoners in Counter Attacks Last Night

FOE EFFORTS WITHSTOOD BY ALLIED ARMIES

British, French and American Troops Hold Line Against Teutons

BATTLE IS RAGING Renewed German Attacks Result Only in Trivial Gains

SITUATION IN REVIEW

By Courier Leased Wire. British, French and American troops on a twenty mile front in Picardy are withstanding renewed German efforts to reach Amiens. Fighting furiously and with the help of heavy artillery the enemy infantry has gained but little and on most of the front his attempts are being repulsed by the Allies.

Having forced the British from Villers-Bretonneux, north of the Somme and eleven miles east of Amiens, the enemy is facing the British on the hill positions west and northwest of the town. American and French troops on the line from Hangard-en-Santerre to south of Castel are holding the Germans well in check. The only progress the enemy has made here has been in Hangard where heavy fighting is progressing in and around the village.

South of the Somme the Germans were hurled back by the British except on the centre line around Villers-Bretonneux, while north of the Somme attacks near the river and north of Albert were repulsed, the British taking prisoners.

Against the Franco-American positions the Germans brought in a large force had to be content with only a footing in Hangard and in the woods to the north. Assaults east of Hangard and near Senocatt wood and Hill 82, in the region of Castel were thrown back with no gains for the attackers. The line between Hangard and Castel is but three miles from the railway running south from Amiens.

Apparently the Germans did not resume the offensive with as heavily massed forces as were used in the previous battles in Picardy and last week in Flanders. Probably they are counting on the artillery to blast a way for smaller bodies of troops the losses since March 21, in massed assaults having necessitated economy in man power.

It is not yet clear whether the renewal of the fighting east of Amiens means another desperate attempt to reach the city, or whether the Germans are carrying out attacks on a large front in an endeavor to straighten out their line. The German positions from Albert south to Montdidier have several small and dangerous salients in them and the enemy may desire to wipe them out.

There has been some increase also in the fighting activity in Flanders, especially at the apex of the new enemy salient. The Germans attacked East of Tournai and were repulsed while the British made slight gains west of Merville and around Meteren. Northwest of Festubert, where the new line joins the old, the British have recaptured an advanced point, inflicting losses on the Germans.

On the Macedonian front allied troops have gained some local successes in the continuation of the increased activity in this theatre. British troops west of Doiran penetrated Bulgarian defences on a wide front and in Albania, west of enemy attack. In Albania, west of Lake Presba, allied troops forced the enemy to retire from the heights French and Serbian troops repulsed along the Vrbica and captured two villages.

Flicht-Lieu, Charles Edward Pattison, whose death is reported at Winona, where his father, F. G. H. Pattison, resides, was twice wounded in active service and was three times shot down at a height of 12,000 feet.

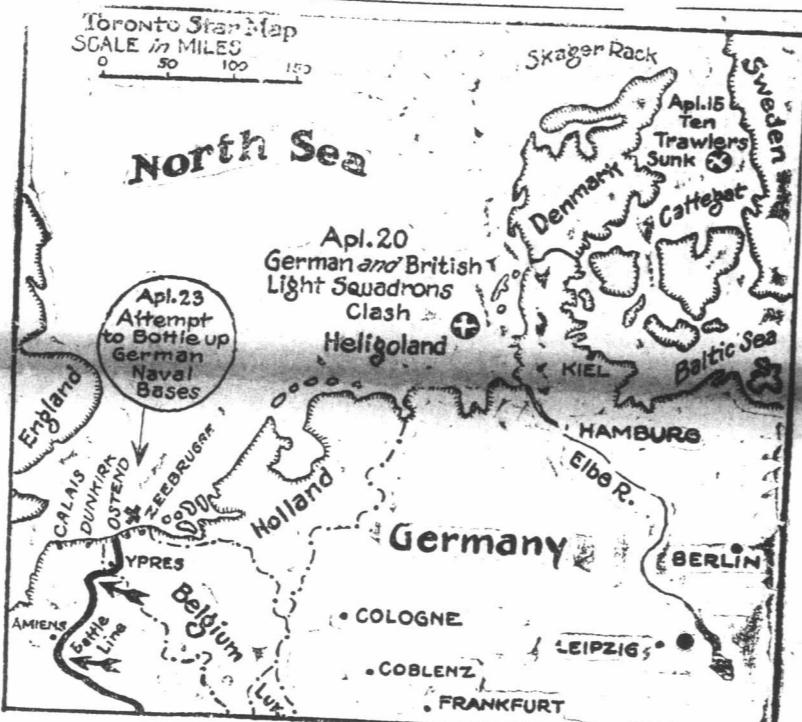
WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, April 25.—The area of high pressure now centered in the upper St. Lawrence valley is moving eastward and shallower. The weather is fair from both north and southwest. The weather is fair from Ontario eastward and showery in the Western Provinces.

Forecast.

Easterly winds, fair and cool.

Friday—Fresh easterly winds and cool.



ATTEMPT TO BLOCK NAVAL BASES. The latest exploit of the British navy is an attempt to seal up the German naval bases at Ostend and Zeebrugge, which are used by the destroyers which now dash into the Straits of Dover or shell Dunkirk and other places along the coast as well as by commerce destroying submarines. Ostend and Zeebrugge are 15 miles apart and five obsolete cruisers, filled with concrete, to their posts across the entrances to the harbor, where they were blown up and abandoned.

HOLLAND AND GERMANY ARE STILL NEAR BREAK

Ministers to Hague and Berlin Have Left Their Posts and Returned to Their Native Countries; Little Progress Toward Agreement, and Situation is Serious

RELATIONS BETWEEN HOLLAND AND GERMANY OVER DEMANDS MADE BY GERMANY ARE STILL SERIOUS AND IT IS REPORTED THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD AN AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO AMSTERDAM NEWSPAPERS, THE DUTCH MINISTER TO GERMANY AND THE GERMAN MINISTER TO HOLLAND HAVE LEFT THEIR POSTS AND ARE RETURNING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

BULLETIN, THE HAGUE, APRIL, 25.—SPEAKING IN THE FIRST CHAMBER OF THE NETHERLANDS PARLIAMENT ON THE SAND AND GRAVEL QUESTION WITH GERMANY, THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER DECLARED HE COULD NOT AND MUST NOT CONCEAL FROM THE CHAMBER THE FACT THAT THE QUESTION WAS A VERY SERIOUS ONE. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY MORE ABOUT IT.

CRIMEA SEEKS AFFILIATION WITH UKRAINE

Minsk and Homel Also Urge Incorporation Upon the Rada

Now Ruled by Foe

Three Polish Squads Annihilated by Ukrainian Peasants

By Courier Leased Wire. Amsterdam, April 25.—A deputation from the Crimea has arrived at Kiev to urge upon the Ukrainian Rada the incorporation of the Crimea in the Ukraine, according to a dispatch from Kiev to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin by way of Vienna. The government of Minsk and the district of Homel also have sent deputations requesting union with Ukraine.

The German official statement of Wednesday said that German troops had reached Simferopol, capital of the Crimea. A great part of the government of Minsk has been under German control for some time as has Homel.

POLISH TROOPS ANNIHILATED. Amsterdam, April 25.—Three squads of the fifth Polish regiment of Ulians have been annihilated in Podolia by Ukrainian peasants who refused the soldiers' demands for food supplies, according to a Polish press agency dispatch received by the Dutch press by way of Vienna. The peasants were armed with machine guns and mine throwers.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND FIRST, SAYS O'CONNOR

Give Meirich myself, Long Over Due Parliament and Problem is Solved

SPOKE IN WASHINGTON With Home Rule, Ireland Will Throw Full Strength Into War

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, April 25.—T. P. O'Connor, the Irish Nationalist leader who has been on a tour of the west was in Washington today to lay before government officials the Irish attitude towards the British conscription plan. He said Chicago Irishmen had urged him to come. "With hostility to the present conscription proposal is induced, I need scarcely say, not by any desire to weaken in any way the arm of England or her allies in the vigorous prosecution of the war, but in the conviction that all want to attain the result we can only get is to give Ireland at once her long overdue parliament which would then be in a position itself to throw Ireland's full strength into the struggle for freedom."

ARMS FORBIDDEN. London, April 25.—General Mahon, commanding the troops in Ireland, has issued an order forbidding anyone to carry or possess arms, ammunition or explosives in eleven Irish counties and also the cities of Cork and Limerick, unless duly authorized.

DIVERSION OF VIEWS. London, April 25.—A diversion of views have prevented the cabinet committee appointed to draft a Home Rule Bill for Ireland from elaborating a definite scheme as yet. It was hoped, the Yorkshire Post says in a despatch from London. Certain members of the committee are standing for recognition of Ulster's position, according to the despatch. Meanwhile the federal plan is being discussed widely. The Ulsterists generally regard it as desirable in an scheme of federalism that Ulster should be included as a unit.

STEFANSSON NEAR DEATH

Noted Arctic Explorer Lies Dangerously Ill on Herschel Island

APPEAL FOR HELP

By Courier Leased Wire. Fort Yukon, Alaska, April 25.—Bringing an appeal for a doctor for Vilhjalms Stefansson, the noted Arctic explorer, who lies dangerously ill on Herschel Island, a messenger reached here late yesterday after a record-breaking trip from the north. In the message carried by the courier, Stefansson told of being ill 50 days after being stricken with typhoid and pneumonia followed by complications.

A Northwest Mounted policeman and two Eskimos have died of typhoid, while several others are ill, the messenger said. A doctor already is on his way to Herschel Island from here, starting several days ago upon learning of Stefansson's illness. Stefansson's message said: "I'll 50 days. Still running. Temperature 102. Had typhoid and pneumonia, followed by complications. Managed to get to Herschel Island. Have been taken care of by Eskimos."

Different Route. Seattle, Wash., April 25.—It is assumed here that the messenger here almost to the exclusion of a slightly different route from that taken by Dr. Burke, of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, who left Fort Yukon, April 18th, to go to Stefansson's relief.

THE CLASSIFIED AD. The Classified advertisement has been described as the "greatest amount of publicity energy generated in the small-est space." To buy, sell, exchange or to secure help, money or position, there is as yet no greater factor than a Classified Advertisement. Glance over The Courier Classified Columns. It will repay you.

Three German Attacks on British Positions East of Amiens Repulsed; Severe Fighting is in Progress About Villers-Bretonneux and on Bailleul Sector

By Courier Leased Wire. Bulletin, London, April 25.—Three attacks made by the Germans on British positions east of Amiens have been repulsed, it is announced officially.

On the Flanders front late yesterday the Germans attacked French positions northeast of Bailleul and were repulsed. Early this morning, after an intense bombardment they renewed their attacks in this sector and against the British positions further east.

The British regained ground around Villers-Bretonneux by counter-attacks and took prisoners. Severe fighting was in progress all night in and around Villers-Bretonneux, and still continues. Heavy casualties have been inflicted on the enemy there.

On the Bailleul sector the battle is continuing over a wide front. The statement follows:— "Heavy fighting took place all night in and around Villers-Bretonneux and still continues. Our troops regained ground by counter-attacks and have taken a number of prisoners.

"The fighting yesterday on the whole of this front was most severe, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy by artillery infantry and tanks.

"North of the Villers-Bretonneux, St. Quentin road, the enemy three times attacked our positions and on each occasion was repulsed with loss.

During this fight the enemy made use of a few tanks. Late yesterday evening the enemy also attacked French positions northeast of Bailleul and was repulsed. Early this morning the enemy renewed his attacks in this sector and on British positions farther east, after an intense bombardment. The fighting continues in this sector on a wide front."

"A raid attempted by the enemy during the night in the neighborhood of Bucquoy was repulsed.

"The hostile artillery has been active during the night in the Festubert and Borecq sectors."

FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT. Paris, April 23.—The war office announcement today says: "The battle continued with violence around the village of Hangard where the Germans concentrated their efforts during the night. French troops resisted valiantly, and counter-attacks several times finally remained in the hands of the Germans at the cost of heavy losses. The French are holding the immediate outskirts of Hangard spite of repeated efforts."

"On both banks of the Aves, the artillery fighting continues with violence.

"The French made several successful raids, especially west of Lassigny, south of Coucy-le-Chateau and in Lorraine. We took a certain number of prisoners. The artillery fighting was very active in the Woivre, in the region of Pirocy and Regneville. Elsewhere there is nothing to report."

Fighting Continues. London, April 25.—Heavy fighting continues on the sector east of Amiens. Reiter's correspondent at British army headquarters reports. The Germans obtained a footing in the Acquaens wood, west of Villers-Bretonneux, but the British counter-attacked and drove them back to the fringe of the wood. At several places the British have re-taken ground and their position has improved considerably.

Both British and German tanks participated in the fight at Villers-Bretonneux. Two British tanks, the correspondent says, got among a mass of Germans and did great execution.

The Germans made a determined effort to rush toward Kemmel Hill yesterday, but without appreciable effect. The French counter-attacked and restored the position.

At 2 o'clock this morning the Germans put down an intense gas barrage on the Anglo-French front in Flanders and two hours later deep waves of infantry delivered an assault. Fighting still is in progress.

MOLE BRISTLED WITH ENEMY MACHINE GUNS

Germans Evidently Expected An Attack by British—Landing Effected by Raiders Under Terrific Shell Fire From Enemy Forces

By Courier Leased Wire. London, April 25.—British marines who landed on the Mole at Zeebrugge, according to an article in the Daily Mail, say that when the cruiser Vindictive got anchored at the Mole, it was found that of the fourteen gangways aboard, all had been shot to pieces except two which were damaged and shaky. Nevertheless the men, headed by Captain Edward Bamford and Lieut. G. C. Cooke, dashed over and landed on the first ledge of the Mole, but lost severely in the terrific shell fire. From which was negotiated by ropes and rope ladders. They tried to take their ladders, said a marine, "but we let them come within ten yards and then blew them away with grenades. Everyone of us had grenades and we used the place lively with them for an hour. We chased the Germans through sliding doors and underground passages. Some of them ran, but others got into corners and wiped at us with rifles and machine guns. Evidently they were prepared for a possible attack as the whole place was stuffed with machine guns."

"After sinking a German destroyer we forced our way ashore at the point, and charged a gun crew which had been giving much trouble, killing many and dispersing the rest and capturing the gun. When we got back the Vindictive presented a sad sight. The upper decks were slippery with blood. The cries and moans were heart-rending. All around lay dead, dying and wounded."

Raid Main Topic. London, April 25.—(By Reuters's Ottawa Agency)—The naval raid at Zeebrugge continues the all-engrossing topic here almost to the exclusion of the battle in France. Special leave has been granted to the men who participated and there are columns of interviews in the daily press.

All the men testify to the gallantry of the commander of the Vindictive. Soon after the German batteries opened fire on the ship the bridge was blown away, but this officer, who miraculously escaped injury, continued to navigate the vessel. Great praise is voiced for the crews of the submarines which were blown up under a viaduct.

A motorboat officer stated that his boat had torpedoed a German destroyer lying alongside the Mole, that a second destroyer had been torpedoed by another boat and a third rammed and sank by his own vessel.

Halfway down the Mole were wire entrenchments with machine guns sweeping the entire width. This position was captured and a number of black eyes and minor injuries landed to the face of hand-to-hand fighting having done the trick. The crews of the block ships observed.

GERMANY READY TO EMULATE MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARIES

Inquired Before War as to Possibility of Destroying European Railroads

PLANNED IN ADVANCE Von Papen, Former Military Attache to U.S. Investigated Scheme

DID NOT APPROVE

By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, April 25.—Repeated declarations of the German Emperor and Hindenburg and Ludendorff that the war was forced upon Germany, and assertions from the same sources, that Germany was mobilized, surprise by the Russian mobilization, attach particular interest to certain papers taken from Captain von Papen, late military attache at Washington.

Among the papers which have been published by the British Government in a white book appears a letter from R. von Papen of the German war ministry in Berlin to Captain von Papen seeking information regarding the best means of blowing up railroad trains "in the event of a European war."

The significant point is that this letter was written March 12, 1914, about five months before the outbreak of war. This letter says: "According to newspaper reports several railway trains were blown up by revolutionaries during the troubles in Mexico. In order to form an opinion whether in the event of a European war, explosions of this kind would have to be reckoned with, it is requested that, if possible, information should be obtained as to how these attacks have been carried out. Were mines and explosives used, or were the attacks carried out on the train by igniting a charge of dynamite, or by the employment of infernal machines?"

Captain von Papen replying from Mexico, where it is now known that he was industriously planting the seeds of German propaganda and establishing connections for Germany to use in the event that she should war upon the United States, did not regard the operations of the Mexican revolutionaries as of any particular value. For four months later, he wrote from Mexico City: "I am convinced that all the recent cases of destruction of railway lines by explosion were brought about by burying dynamite under the line itself and then igniting it by an electric current as soon as the train has reached the appointed place. I consider it out of the question that explosions prepared in this way would have to be reckoned with in European war. They are only possible on lines that are ill-guarded, which, as in this country, often pass for miles through revolutionized districts and have no protection other than a pilot train. Infernal machines so far as I know, have never been employed."

Another letter to von Papen from the manager of the Potsdam branch of the Disconto Gesellschaft has this postscript: "I have never before seen such preparations for war being made at present. German government stocks fell to-day one per cent. Kind regards.—R. Minel."

This letter was reprinted as of particular interest by the British compilers of the correspondence in view of its date, July 25, 1914, while negotiations were still in progress to avoid war.

LINER ST. PAUL OVERTURNED AT HER PIER

Crack Steamer of American Line in Accident at Atlantic Port

By Courier Leased Wire. An Atlantic Port, April 25.—The American Liner St. Paul overturned at her pier in the Hudson river here to-day.

The vessel is resting on her port side. It is supposed her sea cocks were left open. So far as is known, no one was injured. The military authorities have taken charge of the situation.

The St. Paul, one of the crack steamships of the American Line, registered 11,000 gross tons. She has been a Transatlantic service for many years.

ays
SALE
red brick cottage
Street, \$100.00
red brick house
ue, \$2,800. A
brick cottage in
l, with bath and
Price \$2,400.
red brick bun-
h, furnace, elec-
Georgia pine
lot. Price \$3-
cottage on Darce
ce \$1,200.00.
ER & SON
T STREET
and Auctioneers
Flage Licenses.
nk Railway
VE EAST
ard Time.
ph. Palmerston and
Hamilton, Niagara
lilton, Toronto and
lilton, Toronto, Ni-
lilton, Toronto, Ni-
lilton, Toronto and
WEST
ire, Port Huron
on, Detroit, Port
on and intermediate
on, Detroit, Port
on, Detroit, Port
on and intermediate
DERICH LINE
a.m.—For Buffalo
p.m.—For Buffalo
a.m.—For God-
a.m.—For God-
Hamilton
railway
6.35 a.m.: 7.45
a.m.: 11.00 a.m.:
1.15 p.m.: 3.00 p.m.:
6.00 p.m.: 7.00 p.m.:
8.00 p.m.: 11.00 p.m.:
12.00 p.m.—For Galt
to north.
RAILWAY
N 3RD, 1918.
Sunday—For Ham-
points, Toronto,
Sunday, for Ham-
Toronto, Bur-
Philadelphia.
ND
Sunday—From
diate points, for
diate points, St.
Sunday—From
and intermediate
7.08, 10.22 p.m.
8.22, 10.18 a.m.
9.18, 10.42 p.m.
10.31 a.m., 12.1,
10.55 p.m.
8.20, 10.26 a.m.
10.40 p.m.
ND
Sunday—For Galt,
all points north
Sunday—For Guelph,
BURG LINE
Sunday—For Mil-
L. Thomas.
Sunday—For Til-
E. Thomas.
Brantford 8.45
ALB
Brantford 8.30 a.m.
9.30 p.m.; 8.50 p.m.
ford 2.16 a.m.;
11.12, 6.52 p.m.;
Brantford—10.09
Brantford—9.28
00, 10.10 p.m.
10.25 a.m., 12.18,
9 p.m.
11.12, 11.30 a.m.,
11.04 p.m.
10.10, 10.50 p.m.
10.35, 8.45, 11.50
a.m., 1.30, 8.50,
9 a.m., 1.00,
5 a.m., 12.08, 1.08,
on G., P. and
and N. name
First cars in
10.10, 10.50 p.m.
11.12, 11.30 p.m.
11.10, 11.50
11.10 p.m.
9.45, 10.28
9.27 p.m.
11.10, 11.50
11.10, 11.50
11.10 p.m.
10.58, 11.40
10 p.m.
10.50, 11.30
11.00 p.m.
11.00 a.m.