

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Fresh northwest to west winds, fair and moderately cold.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TONIGHT
FELDMAN AND CHRISTIE
and their Big Musical Co. in
"THE GIRL?"

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RUSSIANS BEGIN BIG OFFENSIVE AGAINST GERMANS ON EASTERN FRONT

With Slackening of Fighting Around Verdun, Czar's Army Launches Furious Attack Around Lakes Dreswiaty and Narocz—Berlin Admits Offensive Begun But Claims Russians Repulsed.

AIR FIGHTS MARK PAUSE BETWEEN THE INFANTRY ATTACKS

French Curtain of Fire Halts Only Drive Germans Attempted Around Verdun on Saturday—Fierce Combats Between Airmen—British Lose Small Section of Ground

Roumania Getting Ready.

London, March 20.—A despatch to the Times from Bucharest says:

"Roumania's military preparations are being hurriedly completed. All persons exempted in previous years from military service have been summoned back to the colors, together with several thousands of legions from Transylvania. The list of officers is being carefully revised, and several of the older officers, including the chief of the general staff, have been pensioned and replaced by younger men."

With the slackening of the fighting around Verdun the Russians have started a big offensive movement against the Germans on the eastern front.

A raid by German Zeppelins on the east coast of England and by French airmen on Metz and other German towns, the sinking of a French torpedo boat destroyer by a submarine in the Adriatic, and the reported torpedoing of an Austrian hospital ship by an Entente underwater boat are recorded in official and unofficial communications.

Berlin chronicles an attack of great violence by the Russians around Dreswiaty Lake and Narocz Lake, but says the Russians were repulsed with great losses, 2,270 Russian dead having been counted in the Lake Narocz region.

Saturday the Germans in the Vaux-Banloop sector, northeast of Verdun, began another spirited attack against the French, but the French, bringing their curtain of fire into play, drove the Germans back. The attack was not pushed again during Sunday, and only intermittent bombardments took place.

Berlin reports the re-capture of some ground from the British north of Verdun, in the region of La Bassée, and the driving of the French from a position northeast of Badonvillers in the Vosges. London admits the capture by the Germans of three mine craters at the Hohenzollern deposit.

The French guns have been busy bombarding German trenches in Champagne, and German depots northeast of St. Mihiel.

Five French aircraft dropped bombs on Metz, ammunition depots near Chauvain Salins, and the aerodrome at Dieuze, while twenty-three other machines attacked the aviation camp at Habsheim, and the freight station at Mulhausen. In battles in the air which followed the Germans and the French each lost three or four machines. A German alrship attacked the Entente Allied fleet south of Saloniki, but with what result Berlin does not say.

No Infantry Attacks Yesterday.
Paris, March 19 (10.40 p. m.)—The bombardment in the region to the north of Verdun very materially slackened during the course of the day, according to the official statement issued by the French war office.

BERLIN BLAMES ALLIED SUBMARINE FOR TORPEDOING OF AN AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN HOSPITAL SHIP

Berlin, March 19, via wireless to Sydney.—The Austro-Hungarian hospital ship Elektra was torpedoed Saturday in the Adriatic Sea by an Entente Allied submarine, according to the Overseas News Agency. One sailor was drowned and two Red Cross nurses were badly wounded. The statement of the News Agency follows: "Vienna reports that the hospital

FOUR ZEPPELINS VISIT ENGLAND, ONE DESTROYED

Nine Persons Killed and 31 Hurt in Raid on Kent Coast.

DROPPED 48 BOMBS DURING THEIR VISIT

One of Raiders Overtaken by British Airmen and Shot Down, Others Making Get-Away.

Bulletin, London, March 19.—Nine persons were killed and thirty-one injured in an air raid of four German Zeppelins over the east coast of Kent today, it was announced officially tonight. A British airmen brought down one raider over the sea, the German observer being killed.

The official statement on the raids reads as follows:

"Four German seaplanes flew over East Kent today. The first pair appeared over Dover at a height of five thousand feet, one at 1.57 p. m., the second at 2.02 p. m.

"The first dropped six bombs in the harbor, then went northwest, dropping bombs on the town. The other raider, after passing over Dover, appeared over Deal at 2.13 and dropped several bombs.

"The second pair appeared over Ramsgate at 2.10. They dropped bombs on this town. One of this pair went west, the other north, pursued by a British aeroplane. One bomb is reported to have been dropped on Margate.

"The second machine appeared over Westgate at 2.10. Here several of our aeroplanes went up in pursuit. No bombs were dropped at Westgate.

"The total casualties so far reported are, killed, three men, one woman and five children; injured, 17 men, five women, nine children.

"As far as ascertained, forty-eight bombs were dropped altogether. One bomb fell in the Canadian hospital at Ramsgate, causing damage, but no casualties. Material damage done; several houses, the homes of artisans, and cottages were wrecked.

"Flight Commander Bone, Royal Naval Air Service, in a single-seater aeroplane, pursued one German seaplane thirty miles out to sea, where, after an action lasting a quarter of an hour, he forced it to descend. The German machine was hit many times and the observer was killed.

A dozen bombs were dropped in Dover, and four persons were killed there. One of the missiles crashed through the roof of an orphanage, causing extensive damage and injuring a nun. The children in the institution suffered no injury, having been taken to the cellar at the first alarm.

One of the raiders dropped four bombs into the sea as he was departing. Several aeroplanes started in pursuit. At Deal bombs also were dropped and some damage was done to property. There were no casualties. The town had only a few minutes' warning of the approach of the aircraft. Most of the inhabitants rushed into the street, where they had an excellent view of a fight in the air between the raiders and an English squadron, which rose in pursuit. With the aid of a telescope it was possible to distinguish a great number of machines, twisting and turning in every direction in their manoeuvres to get quickly to the required altitude to combat the raiders.

Flight Commander Bone, who brought down one of the raiders at sea, won his pilot's license at Eastbourne in 1913.

HALIFAX FACTORY GUTTED BY FIRE

Halifax, March 19.—Fire in the wooden building at 121 Lower Water street, owned by James Rouse, and used by him as a factory in which to manufacture carbonated beverages and soda water raged for over three hours this afternoon, and resulted in a damage of \$14,000, with insurance of \$4,500. The building and stock were almost entirely destroyed. The fire started on the second floor and is supposed to have been the result of defective wiring.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE STARTED VERY GENEROUSLY

The Standard and the Brunswick Chapter, I. O. D. E., have pleasure in acknowledging the following subscriptions toward the fund for the purchase of instruments for the 140th Battalion Band:

Mrs. Dr. Kenney	5.00
Loyalist Chapter, I. O. D. E.	50.00
Mrs. W. E. Earle	25.00
Miss Louise Murray	50.00
Elizabeth Harrison	.50
Total	\$130.50

The goal is placed at \$3,000 for the purchase of a complete set of instruments. Possibly the cost will be somewhat less, but it is desirable that a good selection of instruments of high quality be secured, and these will be ordered whenever there is sufficient money on hand to purchase the instruments selected by the bandmaster and officers of the battalion.

Send your subscriptions as soon as possible either to The Standard or to Mrs. J. B. Travers, Regent Brunswick Chapter, I. O. D. E.

Band Instruments to Go to the Front.

It has been stated that next to his flag and country our soldier becomes attached to his battalion band. When the time of departure comes it is the band that gives cheer to the soldier, and its familiar strains will counteract the loneliness of his arrival in a strange land. And when at last the musician is forced to lay down his instrument and do his bit in caring for the wounded, we may make very sure that he will insure its good care until he can again take it up and perhaps with its familiar air gladden some lonely soul.

RUSSIANS RESUME WESTWARD MARCH TOWARDS SIVAS

Petrograd, via London, March 19.—After three weeks of suspended activity the main Russian forces beyond Erzerum, which have been waiting for the development of operations on the Black Sea and in the Lake Van region to make their position secure against possible flank attacks by the Turks, have again resumed their westward march towards Sivas.

Although the Russian advance is yielding a constantly growing number of Turkish prisoners, there is no reason to suppose that the Turks have begun to offer serious resistance to their pursuers. According to unofficial reports the large number of prisoners is accounted for by the Turkish discontent with conditions prevailing in the Turkish army, which has resulted in a growing disposition of the soldiers to surrender. In this connection it is interesting to note that an exceptionally high percentage of officers have been taken prisoner. Some of them say that they were unable longer to tolerate German control of the army.

The capture of Mamahutan bridge shows that the Russian forces are within sixty miles of Erzerum, on the road to Sivas. Sivas will probably mark the first organized resistance of the Turkish army.

FORMER N.B. MAN HEAD OF MILITARY DISTRICT IN WEST

Ottawa, March 19.—The Province of Saskatchewan has been created a separate military district to be known as Military District No. 12. Herbert Saskatchewan has been a part of Military Division No. 10 which included the territory from Fort William west of Alberta. The militia council has now decided to divide this large area so as to relieve the heavy administrative duties of the divisional headquarters at Winnipeg. The headquarters of the new military district will be at Regina and the commanding officer will be Col. W. S. Edgar. Col. Edgar was major of the Fifth Battalion at the front and was wounded at Festubert. He has completely recovered from his wounds and is a capable and experienced military officer. He had lived in Saskatchewan for a number of years, coming to the province from Chatham, N. B.

FRENCH CHASE GERMANS INTO BULGARS' TERRITORY

CAPTURE ILEP AND MAYADAT ON FRONTIER BETWEEN GREECE AND SERBIAN MACEDONIA—GREECE IN FINANCIAL STRAITS AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS IN DIRE WANT.

Athens, March 17, via Paris, March 18.—All direct telegraphic communication between Greece and Germany, Austro-Hungary and Bulgaria has been cut. The financial situation on Greece appears to be of the gravest nature. The families of mobilized soldiers, in many cases, are in dire want and the men themselves will be shortly required in the fields if the crops are not to be neglected.

Bulgars Chase Germans into Bulgarian Territory.

Paris, March 19.—Greek territory on the frontier between Greece and Serbian Macedonia, after pursuing a German contingent into Bulgarian territory, opposite the Vigeziel sector, says a Havas despatch from Athens, dated Saturday. The losses on each side were about thirty killed. The French forces arrested forty peasants on charges of espionage, says the despatch.

69TH N. C. O. MURDERED IN MONTREAL

Corp. Pascal Rousseau Stabbed in Neck with Pocket Knife in Hands of a Forfeigner.

Montreal, March 19.—Corporal Pascal Rousseau, of the 69th Battalion, Montreal, was murdered at 2.30 Saturday afternoon by a stranger, said to be a Pole, while the soldier was standing in front of Napoleon Joly's home, 29 Ste Agathe lane, in company with Napoleon Joly and another friend, Edouard Marsereau. Rousseau being stabbed in the neck with a pocket knife. "I am not badly hurt," he said faintly as he staggered into the house of a friend, Miss Eva Powell, No. 25 Ste Agathe lane, "it's only a slight wound." Then he dropped to the floor unconscious, and while being removed in an ambulance to the hospital, two blocks distant, he bled to death, the jugular vein had been severed.

The stabbing was the outcome of a brief encounter between Corporal Rousseau and the Pole, the former preventing the Pole from entering the residence at 29 Ste Agathe, pushing him and slapping his face. The Pole immediately afterwards disappeared. The knife was picked up on the sidewalk a few minutes later. An inquest will be held Monday morning.

Washington, Mar. 19.—Villa fleeing with his outlaw followers before the advance of the American expeditionary forces in Mexico, has reached his own country in the Guerrero district, where high officers of the army said tonight he may almost indefinitely evade capture. If the bandit chieftain makes a stand Washington is satisfied that the campaign will quickly end. But if he leaves his followers he can military authorities agree, reach a haven of safety in the nearby mountains in less than a day.

The War Department is anxiously awaiting word that contact has been established with the bandits, but it was said that no official information as to the whereabouts of the outlaw has been received from the border.

All advices to the State Department today were said to show that conditions in various sections of Mexico under control of the de facto government were improving.

Mexico City, Mar. 19.—The minister of war, Gen. Obregon, issued a decree today declaring all participants in the Columbus raid outside the law. The decree gives the right to any citizen to apprehend and kill, if necessary, the followers of Villa which crossed the American frontier.

THREE OFFICERS AND FORTY-FOUR OF CREW LOST WHEN FRENCH DESTROYER WAS TORPEDOED IN ADRIATIC

Bulletin, Paris, March 19 (7.17 p. m.)—The French torpedo boat destroyer Renaudin has been sunk in the Adriatic by a submarine. Three officers and 44 of the crew were lost. Two officers and 34 of the crew were saved. The ministry of marine made the following official announcement tonight regarding the destroyer: "The squadron torpedo boat Renaudin was sunk in the Adriatic by an enemy submarine on the morning of March 18. Three officers, among whom were the commanding and second officer, and forty-four seamen were lost. Two officers and thirty-four seamen were rescued by a French torpedo boat which accompanied the Renaudin." The destroyer Renaudin was built in 1913. She measured 756 tons, and was 256 feet in length. She was a 30 knot boat, but in her trials had developed 32 knots.

Dutch Steamer Torpedoed.
London, March 19.—The steamer Patembang has been torpedoed. All the members of the crew were saved.

There are two steamers of the name of Patembang, both Dutch. The larger is a vessel of 6,674 tons gross, owned by the Rotterdamse Lloyd. She is 430 feet long, and was built in Rotterdam in 1911. The smaller vessel is owned by an Amsterdam oil company, and is 241 feet long, of 1,856 tons gross. She was built in Amsterdam in 1905.