

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Fair, not much change in temperature.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

VOL. VIII. NO. 2

TWELVE PAGES

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1916.

OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT

Feldman and Christie Musical Co. in "MISS NEW YORK, JR."

PRICE TWO CENTS

BRITISH WARSHIPS SINK TWO GERMAN ARMED TRAWLERS IN BRISK ENGAGEMENT IN NORTH SEA

BRITISH WARSHIPS AND AIR CRAFT INVADE ENEMY'S TERRITORY AND SHORT BUT LIVELY SCRAP FOLLOWS

PATROL OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH UNDER LIEUTS. STURDEE AND FLEMING HAD NARROWESCAPE

Fearing British Destroyer Lost in Collision—Three Seaplanes Missing, but British Successful in Their Raid.

LIGHT CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS LAND SEAPLANES CLOSE TO GERMAN COAST FOR AN AIR RAID ON SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN—SEA FIGHT FOLLOWS AND BRITISH SEND TWO GERMAN ARMED TRAWLERS TO BOTTOM.

London, Mar. 26.—Three British aeroplanes which took part in a raid on German airship sheds in Schleswig-Holstein, yesterday, are missing. Two German patrol vessels were sunk and a British destroyer is believed to have been lost.

The following official statement was issued tonight: "An attack by British seaplanes was delivered yesterday morning upon German airship sheds in Schleswig-Holstein, eastward of the island of Sylt. The seaplanes were conveyed to their rendezvous close to the German coast by an escorting force of light cruisers and destroyers, under command of Commodore Tyrwhitt.

"Three of the seaplanes which took part in the attack are missing. The destroyer Medusa was in collision with the destroyer Laverock, and it is feared that in the stormy weather which prevailed last night the Medusa may have been lost, but no misgivings are felt as to the safety of the crew. Two German armed patrols were sunk by our destroyers.

"No detailed report has yet been received, but from Danish press messages it would appear that this operation, which was carried out within the enemy's waters, achieved its object."

The Laverock, 260 feet long, was built in 1914 and displaced 965 tons. She was armed with three 4-inch guns and two torpedo tubes. Her normal complement was 100 men. The latest available British navy records give no description of the Medusa.

Sea Fight Followed.

London, Mar. 26.—Despatches from Esbjerg, Denmark, to the Berlingsket Tidende, says Reuters Copenhagen correspondent, report a great naval battle between the German and British fleets some three miles off the Graadby Lightship at mid-day today.

The despatch adds that Tondern, in Schleswig-Holstein, has been bombarded by five aeroplanes.

A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says the German armed trawlers sunk by the British outside Sylt harbor were named Braunschweig and Otto Rudolf.

RETURNED SOLDIER LOSES HOME BY FIRE

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Mar. 26.—Private John Thompson, one of the guards on special duty at the parliament buildings, met with heavy loss Saturday afternoon when his residence near Fredericton Junction was totally destroyed by fire. Thompson was wounded in the arm at Festubert and was invalided home.

STORM WORST IN P.E.I. IN ELEVEN YEARS

Charlottetown, March 26.—After being blocked three days by the worst snow storm since 1903, the P. E. I.

140TH BAND WAS ON PARADE

One of the most interesting features of yesterday's big parade was the first appearance of the 140th Band. This is composed of some thirty members of the battalion who have borrowed for the present the instruments of the 62nd, and who, after only four days practice, were able to turn out in fine shape and hold their own against any. When their own instruments arrive it is safe to say that the 140th will have a band second to none in the city. The Standard is pleased to acknowledge the following:

Table listing names and amounts: Previously acknowledged \$286.60, A. Kathleen Woods, Welsford 1.00, F. Cedric, Woods, Welsford 1.00, J. Ray Woods, Welsford 1.00, Dora A. Woods, Welsford 1.00, H. Douglas Woods, Welsford 1.00, R. J. Armstrong, city 5.00, Sussex Mineral Springs, Ltd. 10.00, Ononette Fair, balance on hand, per Geo. L. Warwick 2.57, Total \$309.17

BERLIN REPORTS VERDUN SET AFIRE BY ARTILLERY

No New Developments in Western Front, Both Sides Keeping Up Artillery—Russians Put Down Attempt of German Offensive and Throw Line Farther Forward Along Black Sea.

Berlin, Mar. 25.—The city of Verdun has been set afire during artillery exchanges, the war office reported this afternoon. No important changes occurred on the western front last night.

Berlin, via London, Mar. 26.—After violent artillery exchanges in the Verdun region yesterday there were hand-to-hand encounters near Fort Douaumont, resulting advantageously for the Germans, the war office statement of today says.

On the eastern front the Russian attacks were renewed with strong forces, but were beaten off with heavy losses to the assailants. The violent bombardment north-west of Verdun, in the region of Malancourt, continues, while to the north of the fortress, and in the Woerre region in the east, intermittent cannonading is still in progress. No infantry attacks have been launched by the Germans, except to the southeast of Fort Douaumont, where Berlin reports hand-to-hand encounters with the advantage on the side of the Germans.

The French in the Argonne forest are keeping up their bombardment of German positions. Considerable artillery activity on the part of the French also has been shown in the Vosges. The explosion of a French mine in this region inflicted heavy losses on the French, according to Berlin. The German position was not impaired by the explosion.

On the Russian front the Germans attempted an offensive in the region of Jacobstadt, but were repulsed, while the Russians captured a German trench in the region of Drivink. Heavy fighting is still going on in the lake regions southeast of Drivink. Here, Berlin says, the Russian attacks broke down.

Russian Progress Keeps Up. Storms in the mountain regions of the Austro-Italian lines have impeded operations, but bombardments are continuing on the Isonzo front.

In the coastal region of the Russo-Turkish war theatre, the Russians are making good progress against the Turks, and also farther south in the Lake Van region have thrown their lines still farther forward.

Three more British steamers have been sunk, presumably by German submarines. They are the Minneapolis, plying between American ports and London; the St. Cecilia, on a voyage from Portland, Maine, for Lon-

don, and the Fenay Bridge, bound from Philadelphia for Hull. The crews of the St. Cecilia and Fenay Bridge were rescued. The fate of the crew of the Minneapolis is not known. The exact number of Americans on board the cross-channel steamer Sussex, which was blown up in the channel Friday afternoon has not yet been determined.

The French admiralty, basing its statement on affidavits of American passengers saved, says the Sussex was torpedoed without warning. A conference of the Allies of far-reaching importance will begin at Paris Monday. The premiers, various other high government officials, including the British foreign secretary and secretary for war, and the commanding generals of France, Great Britain and Italy will take part in this conference, which will give the closest consideration to the military and political situation brought about by the war.

The Dutch Ministry of Marine says that an examination of a piece of bronze metal found in a lifeboat of the Dutch steamer Tubantia, recently sunk, induced the belief that it belonged to the air chamber of a torpedo.

No Infantry Attacks. Paris, Mar. 26.—In the Verdun region, west of the Meuse, there were violent artillery actions last night, but no infantry encounters, this afternoon's official statement says. East of the Meuse the night passed quietly. Two German attacks in the forest of Le Pretre were repulsed.

The announcement follows: "West of the Meuse the bombardment was very violent in the course of the night in the sectors of Malancourt, Ennes and Hill 304. There were no infantry actions. East of the Meuse the night was relatively calm. There was some activity on the part of the artillery in the Woerre."

THREE BRITISH STEAMERS SUNK

The Minneapolis Torpedoed Last Wednesday in Mediterranean. RESCUER TOO LATE, CREW'S FATE UNKNOWN

Steamer St. Cecilia, from Portland, Me., Sunk, Crew Saved—Built Only Two Years Ago.

Bulletin, Marseilles, March 26 (11 p. m.)—The British liner Minneapolis was sunk in the Mediterranean last Wednesday by a submarine, according to Captain Bibble, of the British steamer Leicestershire, which has arrived here from Hampton.

Captain Bibble reports that while in the Mediterranean last Wednesday he received a wireless call for help from the Minneapolis, which said that the steamer had just been torpedoed and was sinking.

The Leicestershire went at full speed to the assistance of the Minneapolis, but arrived too late, the vessel having sunk. The fate of the crew was not known to Captain Bibble.

The Minneapolis was a steamer of 12,543 tons gross. She was built in 1900 at Belfast, and was owned by the Atlantic Transport Company, built at Greenock in 1913. She was owned by the Saint Bride Steamship Company, of Glasgow.

A Third Victim. London, March 26.—Lloyd's reports that the British steamship Fenay Bridge has been sunk. The crew was landed.

The Fenay Bridge, 3,538 tons, 356 feet long, was built in Sunderland in 1910 and owned in London. She sailed from Philadelphia on March 18 for Hull.

The steamer St. Cecilia was a comparatively new vessel, having been built at Greenock in 1913. She was owned by the Saint Bride Steamship Company, of Glasgow.

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Had Made Way Almost to Enemy's Barbed Wire When Observed—Germans Turned Machine Guns on them but 26th Men Found Refuge in Shell Holes Until Firing Ceased and Then Made Way Back in Safety to Their Own Line.

Ottawa, March 26.—The following official communication has been received from Sir Max Aitken, Canadian general representative in France: Canadian General Headquarters in France, March 25, via London, March 26.—Between one o'clock and six on the afternoon of March 16th the enemy threw over twelve hundred shells into the sector of the defences held by our First Infantry Brigade. About three-quarters of the shells were high explosives, mostly of large calibre, and the remainder shrapnel. The intensity of the fire varied considerably, but at times reached four shells per minute. The reason for this bombardment was not apparent, and remarkably light damage resulted.

Three times during the afternoon our artillery retaliated. The first retaliation resulted in drawing an increase of fire from the German artillery. Subsequently combined shots by our field battalions and heavy howitzers were organized, and proved effective in subduing the enemy's fire. Two of the enemy's shells fell short and burst in his own trenches.

Shot German Officer. During the bombardment Sniper Hanson, of our Second Eastern Ontario Battalion, shot a German officer who was engaged in observing the effect of the hostile artillery fire from a support trench.

On the afternoon of March 18th the German artillery again became very active on our front, once more concentrating its efforts on the area of our First Infantry Brigade. More than 600 shells fell in this section. A few of the enemy's shells again fell short and burst in his own trenches.

On the appearance of the three British aeroplanes over our lines the fire from the hostile battalions rapidly dwindled, and our artillery and trench mortars combined in a heavy retaliation. Our fire was directed principally against the enemy's front and communicating trenches and against a strong point in the German lines. The enemy's parapets were breached, and his trenches were wrecked in several places, quantities of woodwork and timber being hurled high into the air. Numerous direct hits were secured on the strong point by our heavy howitzers, and a concrete machine gun emplacement in the vicinity was completely demolished. Several dugouts were destroyed and at one point our observers reported seeing a man, rolled in his blanket, blown up with his dugout.

After the bombardment the fire of our rifle batteries and snipers was directed on the German parapets, and the enemy was seen to suffer severely in casualties. Throughout the night machine gun and rifle grenade fire was maintained on these points, effectively harassing the enemy.

On March 19th the German artillery bombarded the area of our Fifth Infantry Brigade. A large number of high explosives pitched near some of our dugouts and cook houses, but effected very little damage.

Bombarded From Air Craft. Prompt retaliation by our artillery silenced the batteries. During the period of March 15-22, hostile aircraft frequently appeared over our lines. A few bombs were dropped, and on occasions smoke-balls were thrown down over various points in our defences as a guide to German artillery.

During the bombardment on March 16th, hostile aeroplanes were seen over the German lines observing the fire of their guns. Several times the fire of our anti-aircraft guns forced the German planes to retire, and our aviators were active in reconnaissance and driving off the enemy machines.

Enemy snipers were more active than usual throughout the week, and there was some increase in the number of grenades and mortar shells thrown at our trenches. Our snipers accounted for several of the enemy, and our grenadiers more than held their own in the interchange of grenades, the enemy almost invariably being silenced by a greater weight of fire.

The shooting of our trench guns and mortars was accurate and effective. In several places the German works and wire was seriously damaged and on more than one occasion there were indications that the enemy had suffered serious loss as a result of this description of fire. One mortar shell exploded a gas cylinder in a German trench, causing a dense white smoke to hang over the locality for twelve minutes.

In the space of several bright nights reconnaissance and patrol work was carried on by our battalions with undiminished enterprise. On one occasion a small party, under Lieut. Younger, of our Tenth Western Canada Battalion, discovered the presence of two enemy parties between the trenches. Returning to our trenches for reinforcements, Lieut. Younger quickly organized and took our larger patrol of fourteen men. Crawling forward to within forty yards of the enemy our patrol opened fire. The Germans at once retired, and following them up our patrol found a wounded German lying in a ditch. This man was taken prisoner and carried back to our lines.

While out near the German wire, Lieut. MacFarlane and Sergt. MacKay, of our Thirteenth Battalion, Royal Highlanders, observed two Germans standing on their parapets and driving rivetting stakes. Our men opened fire at close range and one of the enemy pitched forward, wounded, into the trench.

On another occasion Lieut. MacFarlane and Lieut. Givens and eleven grenadiers of our Thirteenth Battalion attempted to demolish a fortified hedge near the German trenches by means of incendiary bombs. Owing to the dampness of some straw with which the hedge was lined, the operation was only partially successful. A large party of the enemy who were at work behind the hedge opened fire on our patrol, but Lieut. MacFarlane and Givens succeeded in withdrawing their men without casualties.

Lieuts. Sturdee and Fleming. A patrol of our Twenty-Sixth New Brunswick Battalion, under Lieuts. Sturdee and Fleming, was observed by the enemy when close to the German wire. A machine gun was turned on our men, who promptly scattered and took shelter in some shell holes until the firing ceased. They returned safely to our lines.

A patrol of our Nineteenth Western Ontario Battalion, under Lieut. Hooper, penetrated for some distance into the enemy wire. German sentries in the trenches in front of them appeared to become suspicious, and our patrol withdrew. Shortly afterwards the enemy commenced to bomb his own wire and did so for twenty minutes.

Scouts of our Second Infantry Brigade observed a large enemy working party repairing wire in front of the German trenches. Word was sent back and the working party was dispersed by fire from our machine guns. Our scouts saw an enemy casualty carried back over the parapet.

Sergt. Crosby, of our Eighteenth Ontario Battalion, made a reconnaissance of enemy wire defences. When twenty yards from the German parapet he was seen by the enemy sentries, who immediately opened fire on him. Sergt. Crosby was hit in the arm, but returned to our lines.

On the afternoon of March 17th a presentation of French decorations and medals, recently awarded the officer and men of the Canadian forces, was made by Gen. Hely Doolittle, commander of a French army corps. The ceremony took place at the Canadian corps headquarters. A French guard of honor, with band and color party, was in attendance, and a Canadian guard of honor was furnished by the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles. A pathetic incident was the handing to Major-General Currie, C. B., of the Cross of the Legion of Honor, which had been awarded to the late Captain George T. Richardson, of the Second Eastern Ontario Battalion. The cross is being forwarded to Captain Richardson's relatives in Canada.

Bad Weather Hampers Italians. Rome, Mar. 25.—The official communication issued from general headquarters today reads: "In the Rovereto zone Thursday there was an artillery duel, followed during the night by small attacks against our positions at Mori-Vecchio, on the Rio Camerata, Adige Valley, and at Feltrich in Terragnolo Valley. All were repulsed. Weather conditions and on more than one occasion there were indications that the enemy had suffered serious loss as a result of this description of fire. One mortar shell exploded a gas cylinder in a German trench, causing a dense white smoke to hang over the locality for twelve minutes. In the space of several bright nights reconnaissance and patrol work was carried on by our battalions with undiminished enterprise. On one occasion a small party, under Lieut. Younger, of our Tenth Western Canada Battalion, discovered the presence of two enemy parties between the trenches. Returning to our trenches for reinforcements, Lieut. 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Givens and eleven grenadiers of our Thirteenth Battalion attempted to demolish a fortified hedge near the German trenches by means of incendiary bombs. Owing to the dampness of some straw with which the hedge was lined, the operation was only partially successful. A large party of the enemy who were at work behind the hedge opened fire on our patrol, but Lieut. MacFarlane and Givens succeeded in withdrawing their men without casualties. Lieuts. Sturdee and Fleming. A patrol of our Twenty-Sixth New Brunswick Battalion, under Lieuts. Sturdee and Fleming, was observed by the enemy when close to the German wire. A machine gun was turned on our men, who promptly scattered and took shelter in some shell holes until the firing ceased. They returned safely to our lines. A patrol of our Nineteenth Western Ontario Battalion, under Lieut. Hooper, penetrated for some distance into the enemy wire. German sentries in the trenches in front of them appeared to become suspicious, and our patrol withdrew. Shortly afterwards the enemy commenced to bomb his own wire and did so for twenty minutes. Scouts of our Second Infantry Brigade observed a large enemy working party repairing wire in front of the German trenches. Word was sent back and the working party was dispersed by fire from our machine guns. Our scouts saw an enemy casualty carried back over the parapet. Sergt. Crosby, of our Eighteenth Ontario Battalion, made a reconnaissance of enemy wire defences. When twenty yards from the German parapet he was seen by the enemy sentries, who immediately opened fire on him. Sergt. Crosby was hit in the arm, but returned to our lines. On the afternoon of March 17th a presentation of French decorations and medals, recently awarded the officer and men of the Canadian forces, was made by Gen. Hely Doolittle, commander of a French army corps. The ceremony took place at the Canadian corps headquarters. A French guard of honor, with band and color party, was in attendance, and a Canadian guard of honor was furnished by the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles. A pathetic incident was the handing to Major-General Currie, C. B., of the Cross of the Legion of Honor, which had been awarded to the late Captain George T. Richardson, of the Second Eastern Ontario Battalion. The cross is being forwarded to Captain Richardson's relatives in Canada. Bad Weather Hampers Italians. Rome, Mar. 25.—The official communication issued from general headquarters today reads: "In the Rovereto zone Thursday there was an artillery duel, followed during the night by small attacks against our positions at Mori-Vecchio, on the Rio Camerata, Adige Valley, and at Feltrich in Terragnolo Valley. All were repulsed. 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