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Britains' Heavy Losses Around Neuve Chapelle

'We Have Had to Pay the Price,' Says the Official Observer

Cheerfulness and Willingness Characterize Our Tommy Atkins—German Losses Tremendous—Fell Like Grain Before the Scythe—Admirable Bravery of German Officers and Soldiers

London, Mar. 24.—"Although stress has been laid on the German losses, our own heavy death toll must not be overlooked," says Earl Percy, who at present is acting as official observer with the British expeditionary force in the report given out here to-night, by the Official Information Bureau. Dealing with the aftermath of Neuve Chapelle victory by the British, Earl Percy writes: "We have had to pay the price. In this connection, however, it is well to bear in mind that the progress made by us during action at Neuve Chapelle was gained in the course of one attack. It was, therefore, an entirely different kind of operation from those undertaken in other quarters consisting of gradual advances, lasting many weeks. Our casualties, great though they are, appear all the more severe in that they were incurred in the course of a few days, instead of being spread over a much longer period, although the net result would have been the same.

BELGIUM HAS FAITH IN JUSTICE OF THE WORLD

The Victim of Her Own Loyalty—Will Not Bow Her Head Before Any Power

London, Mar. 20.—The Belgian Government today issued a protest against the German allegation that documents found in the archives at Brussels showed that Belgium had forfeited her neutrality before the outbreak of the war. After recounting the conversations which took place between the British and Belgian and military officers in 1906 and 1912, which, as previously stated by Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, had "reference to the situation that would be created if Belgian neutrality had already been violated," the Belgian protest says:

Declares Its Honor

"The Belgian Government declares on its honor that not only was no convention ever made but also that neither of the two Governments ever made any advances or propositions concerning the conclusion of any such convention. Moreover, the Minister of Great Britain at Brussels, who alone could contract engagements in her behalf, never intervened in these conversations, and the whole Belgian Ministry are ready to pledge themselves on oath that no conclusion arising from these conversations was ever brought before the Cabinet, or even laid before one single member of it.

The Documents

"The documents which the Germans discovered give evidence of all this. Their meaning is perfectly clear provided that no part of them is either garbled or suppressed. In face of the calumnies repeated again and again our Government, faithfully reflecting Belgian uprightness, considers that it is its duty to inflict once more on the spoiler of Belgium the brand of infamy, his only legitimate reward.

Answer to Allegations

"It also takes the opportunity of declaring in answer to allegations, whose malevolence is obvious, that: "First: Before the declaration of war, no French force, even of the smallest size, had entered Belgium, and no trustworthy evidence can be produced to contradict this affirmation. "Second: Not only did Belgium never refuse the offer of military help offered by one of the guaranteeing powers but after the declaration of war she earnestly solicited the protection of her guarantors.

Will Not Bow Her Head

"Third: When undertaking, as was her duty, a vigorous defence of her fortresses, Belgium asked for and received with gratitude such help as her guarantors were able to place at her disposition for her defence. "Belgium, the victim of her own loyalty, will not bow her head before any power. Her honor she has faith in the justice of the world. On the day of judgment her triumph belongs to the people who have sacrificed everything to serve with conscientiousness the cause of truth, right and honor."

BIG BATTLE IN S.W. AFRICA

Capetown, Mar. 24.—The biggest battle yet fought between the British and German forces in German South-West Africa took place on Saturday in East Swakopmund.

The British forces attacked the Germans, killing twenty, including three officers. The body of a German commander of artillery was found with half his head blown away.

Two 15-pounders, two maxim guns, two ammunition wagons, other transport wagons, 170 rounds of artillery ammunition, 2,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition, and 210 prisoners were captured by the British.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

VERY DESPONDENT REGARDING ISSUE OF THE WAR

German Business Men Admit They Were Convinced That Germany Will Be Defeated

London, March 25.—A Daily Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen says, according to a prominent American business man, who was travelling last month in Germany, commercial classes are very despondent regarding the issue of the war.

German business men admitted to him they were convinced that Germany certainly would be defeated, and that it was generally believed the war would be over by August.

Uncertainty in Italy Selfish Interests Are Uppermost

London, Mar. 25.—The "Times" Rome correspondent telegraphs: The points of chief interest here shift with bewildering rapidity. Last week negotiations with Austria-Greek crisis, and operations in the Dardanelles disputed first place on the stage. This week the fall of Przemysl and the reported change of the attitude of Bulgaria, seem to be the main subjects of preoccupation.

At the moment Rome is a very sensitive nerve centre, sensitive almost equally to facts and rumors.

It remains to be seen whether the surrender of Przemysl will have any effect on the much discussed negotiations concerning the Trentino. It seems that a renewed order for silence has been imposed for their success, but reports from Austria are distinctly unfavorable.

GREECE AND HER NEUTRALITY

Athens, March 25.—The "Hestia" publishes a statement to the effect that President Poincaré has assured the Greek Minister at Paris, that coming events will convince Greece of the necessity of abandoning her neutrality.

Bombardment Of Dardanelles Resumed

Mine Sweepers Accompany the Fleet—Land Operations Assail the Forts—Big Force Landed on Gallipoli

Paris, Mar. 24.—The bombardment of the Turkish fortifications in the Dardanelles was resumed at ten o'clock yesterday morning by the Allied fleet.

According to an Athens despatch, the warships were accompanied into the Straits by a number of mine-sweepers.

London, Mar. 24.—Land operations on a large scale against the forts of the Dardanelles have been begun by the Allies, according to a despatch from an Athens correspondent, who says that a considerable force of troops was landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula yesterday, from transports in the Gulf of Saros.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon) Fresh, North West, shifting to Southwest winds; fair and mild today and on Friday.

Roper's (noon) Bar. 28.50; ther. 40.

FURTHER PROOF Of the Enmity AGAINST BRITAIN

Annihilate London!—Reichstag Leader's Plan of Making War Upon England

"If we could discover a means of annihilating London in its entirety, that would be more humane than to allow a single German to bleed on the field of battle, since such annihilation would lead to a prompt peace."

Further proof of the extreme bitterness of the enemy against the British is given the above quotation from a remarkable article in the "Tag" of Berlin, written by Deputy Erzberger, one of the leaders of the Reichstag Centre. The writer says:

"War must of necessity be a hard and rough instrument. It must be waged as pitilessly as possible. That after all, is the most humane principle, England spares nothing. She recognizes neither the law of nations nor even international conventions that she herself has ratified. She regards these conventions as mere scraps of paper which she is at liberty to tear up and throw to the winds. "She has embodied in her forces troops of all races, yellow, red and black; she would even enrol a spotted race if there existed one in the world. That is why Germany is authorized to make use of all the known means of warfare to beat her adversary.

"Since we are under sea masters, even if not masters above the waves, let us boldly assert our superiority. Let our Zeppelins and our aeroplanes, acting in concert with our submarines, strike our enemies' cities without respite.

"England has taken from us about 400 merchant ships. Our reply must be this: For every stolen ship a British town or village must be destroyed. Let us sow with the aid of our dirigibles terror and death in the hearts of the British people.

"All means must be good for us. Even if we possessed the secret of shedding fire-rain on the British soil, why should we not make use of it?"

A FIERCE ATTACK ON BELGIAN LINES

Germans Renew Bombardment of Belgian Positions—Action Increasing in Violence and is Greatest Near the Coast

London, Mar. 24.—A daily Express correspondent on the Belgian frontier telegraphs: The Germans resumed the bombardment of the Belgian lines, between Dixmude and the sea this afternoon and it was increasing in strength at the time of telegraphing. Apparently all their howitzers are in action and the attack appears to be greatest near the coast.

Three great explosions were distinctly heard here tonight. Considerable damage being done at ten o'clock yesterday morning by the Allies' aviators at ammunition and oil depots.

Clear weather and little wind greatly facilitates aerial observations of the Allies' war aeroplanes.

False Reports

What, after all, is the use or good of individuals coming with false reports and circulating them re our sealing fleet?

Yesterday the rumor was abroad that one or two of our ships were badly damaged. The Eagle was abandoned and the Bloodhound was in a sinking condition, the Bonaventure was added—nothing less mind you—and the Diana had sunk.

Such were the utterly unfounded reports of thoughtless people who seem to forget that they are responsible for harmful and damaging news which can do nobody any good. Stop it.

Big Battle in Progress at Dukla and Uzsok Passes

Austrians Say This Battle Will Continue For Some Time

Russians Will Likely Use Troops Released From Siege of the Fortresses of Przemysl—The Austrians Drive Russians Back—Germans Reoccupy Memel

London, Mar. 24.—The British air-raid on Hoboken, near Antwerp, where the Germans are constructing submarines; another threatened effort by the Germans in Flanders; and heavy fighting in the Carpathians, are the outstanding features of to-day's war news. It is reported that the Germans are preparing for another supreme effort in Flanders. Already there has been considerable fighting along the Yser, the Germans having bombarded Nieupoort and Dixmude, while the Belgians have made progress along both banks of the river.

The big battle of the moment, however, is in progress between Dukla Pass and Uzsok Pass in the Carpathians, where, in their official communication, the Russians claim to have captured a number of Austrians and to have made a general advance. The Austrian correspondents declare that this battle is likely to continue for some time. It is possible the Russians will use part of the troops released by the fall of Przemysl, in an endeavor to bring the battle to an end.

BATTLE ABOVE ROARING CANNON

High Over the Field of Battle Hostile Aeroplanes Engage in Grim Fight

Paris, Mar. 24.—Following a terrific artillery duel, during which the squadron of the hostile aeroplanes engaged each other, high above the roaring guns, another infantry engagement has developed in West Flanders.

It is reported from St. Omer that East of Nieupoort the French artillery has dislodged the German guns from a strong position. Further South the German and French guns were engaged in a severe conflict, in swampy low land near Dixmude.

Reports from the North indicate that hard fighting is in progress along the Yser River. Another artillery duel has developed on the Aisne River.

The French batteries near Soissons having been reinforced during the part few days were able to silence the German guns in short order.

In the Champagne there was still another artillery conflict where the Germans were trying to destroy a French trench with heavy fire from big guns.

Have Resumed The Bombardment Of Dardanelles Forts

Paris, Mar. 24.—The bombardment of the Turkish fortifications in the Dardanelles was resumed at ten o'clock yesterday morning by the Allied fleet, according to an Athens despatch. The warships were accompanied into the Straits by a number of mine sweepers.

Austrians Consider War With Italy Quite Probable

Geneva, Mar. 24.—The Austrian Government now considers war with Italy more than probably, according to despatches received here from Vienna. A large number of troops have arrived in the Tyrol and Trieste where defensive works are being constructed. The Geneva "Tribune" professes to have received advices from Austria to the effect that the Dual Monarchy might consider the signing of a separate peace with Russia, without consulting Germany, offering as concession to cede to Russia a large portion of Galicia.

Turks Abandon Military Offensive Against Egypt

London, Mar. 24.—The correspondent of the Daily Chronicle at Constanza telegraphs, the Turkish military offensive against Egypt has been definitely abandoned. Retreating Turks are dying of hunger and thirst in the march across the desert. The Turkish Commissariat Department has been an utter failure.

Our item in Monday's issue re the filthy condition of Rossiter's Lane has had its effect and the remedy has been applied by the Health authorities.

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