

THREE GERMAN DIVISIONS USED TO RETAKE FRESNOY

Fee Paid a Terrible Price for the Place Taken
From the British

35 Hun Divisions Wasted on This Front Since
First of April.

(By Perry Robinson.)

British Headquarters in France. Cable—The loss of Fresnoy yesterday is, I believe, the first instance in the battles either on the Somme or Arras that any village, after being firmly in our hands, for 24 hours, has been won back by the Germans, but such a thing was bound to happen sooner or later, provided the enemy was willing to use troops enough. Though it may sound absurd to say it, perhaps it is just as well it happened. A glance at the map will show that, as the enemy held the trench lines north and northwest of Fresnoy on the front from Acherville to Mericourt, as well as the Oppy part of the trenches north of that point, Fresnoy was a dangerously exposed position.

The German attacks were made with a vastly greater weight of men than we ever use. The troops not only holding the German line at Fresnoy were the 15th Reserve division and the 4th Guard division on the right of Acherville. The first attack, made early in the morning, was preceded by a heavy bombardment, ordinary and gas shells being used. Then a joint attack was made by the 15th Reserve and 4th Guard divisions, which latter had been slipped down from Acherville. Apparently both bodies, but certainly the Guards, came on in solid masses. Their losses were tremendous. By weight of numbers they reached our trenches, only to be immediately driven out, what was left of them suffered badly from our guns and machine guns in retiring.

Meanwhile, besides these two divisions, Germans brought a third, namely, the 5th Bavarian division, which had been kept in reserve. The second attack was delivered by this entirely fresh division, which again came in solid formation. Our men, worn out, were compelled to give ground before the enemy's overwhelming strength. But it was these same tired men who a few hours later recovered a large part of the ground yielded. The enemy losses were so heavy that if we had used up every man we had in the field we should not have approached them. If operations cost us ground we have a large credit of man-power to balance elsewhere on the line. The enemy is again attacking heavily and uselessly, notably at Gavrelle windmill. Apart from these local efforts the situation on the whole line continues to be quiet. The new high-velocity German field gun of which we heard so much from the German prisoners does not seem to have reached this front or is not yet noticeably effective.

HUGE ENEMY LOSSES.
London Cable—The Reuters correspondent at British headquarters in France sends the following:
"From north of Fresnoy to the windmill at Gravelle Germans have made prodigious use of their reserves in the last 24 hours in an endeavor to press us back, but their attempts were broken up by our intense artillery fire, mostly before they got within bombing distance of our positions."
"Some idea of what this fighting is costing the enemy may be gained from the fact that since April 1 it would appear that over 35 German divisions have been withdrawn on this front exhausted. It is understood that the existing strength of the German army on the western front is 157 divisions. In computing their total strength, however, it should be borne in mind that about three-quarters of the enemy divisions now consist of only three regiments or about 9,000 rifles."

BRITISH REPORT.
London Cable—The official communication, issued this evening, says:
"There was local fighting during the day in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, in the course of which a party of the enemy, while attempting to advance to the attack across the open, was caught by our machine gun fire and suffered heavy casualties."
"There has been considerable artillery activity on both sides at intervals during the day north-west of St. Quentin and in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, Wancourt and Ailette."

An earlier report read:
"Last night our troops advanced their position slightly north-east of Hargicourt."
"Yesterday evening the enemy attacked our positions north-east of the Gavrelle village. The attack was broken up by our barrage and machine gun fire and completely repulsed."

"At the same time hostile forces concentrating for an attack north of Fresnoy were dispersed by our artillery fire."

"West of Fresnoy we improved our position during the night by a counter-attack. A portion of the ground lost yesterday morning has been regained. Early this morning an enemy raiding party was driven off east of Arrmentieres (on the Franco-Belgian border)."

FRENCH REPORT.
Paris Cable—The official communication issued Wednesday night by the War Office reads:
"South of the Oise our artillery carried out effective fires on the organizations and batteries of the Germans in the St. Gobain forest."

"On the Chemin des Dames there was spirited artillery activity. On the Cerny-Hurbette front, in the region of Chevreux, our troops have organized the conquered ground and repulsed several enemy counter-attacks. The

number of prisoners made in the course of yesterday's action has reached 200.
"To the north-west of Rheims we carried out a detailed operation which enabled us to carry a German trench on a front of 400 metres and take 100 prisoners, including two officers. These prisoners belonged to four different regiments."

FREED 300,000 HUNS FOR WEST

That is Result of Russ
Troops' Fraternizing

With German Soldiers On
the Front.

Petrograd Cable.—It is reported that at least twenty German divisions (about 300,000 men) have been transferred from the eastern to the western front as the result of the fraternizing of the soldiers of the two armies. During the Russian Easter, it is stated, a dance was held between trenches to gramophone music, at one part of the front.

It is necessary to have an exact understanding of the spirit that animates this fraternizing and of the extent to which it prevails. To estimate its exact importance it must be accepted as the newest angle the war has taken on.

The fact exists and every indication goes to show that this fraternizing of opposing troops at the front is extensive—the Russians have proved in every phase of the revolution that they are quick at spreading any accepted idea. Reports state there has been no firing on long stretches at the front for more than a week. But this is not true on parts of the front.

The proof of this is the appeal of the Eighth Artillery Brigade to be attached to the infantry, which declares:
"We have fired, and always will fire, on the enemy, even on those advancing toward us in the attempt to fraternize. We consider any other attitude toward the enemy to be cowardly and treacherous. We will not fire on our own men who go to fraternize with the enemy, because every Russian soldier is needed. Those who wish to fraternize are not traitors; they are only weak, undecided, and overconfident."

This appeal proves that many soldiers regard the Germans as "false brothers," and think their attempts to fraternize with the Russians are deceitful. The whole spirit of the appeal shows that fraternizing is not altogether general at the front. There are some points at least where the Russian artillery is active.

Opinion is divided as to whether an attempt should be made to suppress this fraternization because its extent makes the outcome of the war more doubtful, or to take advantage of it and so spread dissension in the German armies. If the Germans are really affected by the desire to fraternize, the latter course is considered possible and is acceptable from a military point of view. But the public is still grasping for accurate knowledge of the extent to which the Russian soldiers are meeting the enemy as brothers.

The public fears the Germans are only pretending friendship, as indicated by General Gucko and told in these despatches. Less conspicuous incidents, similar in character to the fraternizing, have occurred on many parts of the front.

**NO FEAR OF
STARVATION**

Lloyd George Addresses
House Secret Session.

Britain to Be Self-Supporting
in 1918.

London Cable says—The secret session of the British Commons to-day was begun after the question had been asked, the galleries being cleared. There is a simple rule under which there is a simple rule under which a member of the Government may be cleared of strangers in his place and utter the formula: "I am a stranger," whereupon officials clear the galleries and seal the doors. Strangers also are asked to leave the lobbies and precincts of the House. Members do not take any oath of secrecy, but could be proceeded against under the Defence of the Realm Act should they disclose secrets.

The attendance of members at today's session was very large. The official report of the secret session issued to-night says that Winston Spencer Churchill opened the session and dealt with the general military situation, with special reference

to the position in Russia, the development of the struggle on the western front, the strength of the United States and the questions arising out of the submarine attacks.

"The losses of personnel and material," the statement continues, "was commented on and the general diplomatic situation in the Balkans discussed. Suggestions were made for meeting the submarine danger, and further information was asked concerning marine losses and food supplies."

General Henry Page Croft and George James Wardle continued the debate.
"The Premier dealt seriously and fully with the points Mr. Churchill raised. He commented upon the internal situation in Austria and the military position of Germany, in respect to her reserves, contrasting it unfavorably with our own. He cited opinions of the British and French military chiefs in satisfaction at the results of the recent combined operations on the western front."

The Premier then explained how it was proposed to satisfy the War Office demands for further reserves and also gave figures of the British tonnage sunk month by month since last August, and gave an encouraging account of the methods adopted to meet the submarine attacks. He announced the figures of the new tonnage, which could and would be built during the next twelve months.

"Upon the food question the Premier pointed out that with judicious economy in consumption and increased productivity in home supplies there need be no alarm as to starvation, and that in 1918 we should be self-supporting. There appeared to him no necessity to restate the allies' war aims, which were well known and were the same as had been repeatedly stated during the last two years."

"He then followed Mr. Lloyd George, expressed his full agreement with the Premier, but deprecated the secrecy of the sitting, in which, he affirmed, hardly anything had been said which could not have been said openly. He concluded by inviting the Premier to publish to the country the greater part of his speech."

LIKE MORE OF SAME DEFEATS

Says Gen. Maurice About
German Claims,

In His Weekly Summary of
Conditions.

London Cable—"Bodies of Teutons," said Gen. Maurice, in his weekly statement today, "continually have been sent against the British over open ground without any apparent regard for casualties, but the British have held their line when it might have been expected that they would give way, and have inflicted tremendous losses on their opponents."

"The Germans have hurled great reserves into the Arras conflict, employing people from Belgium, Poland and other conquered countries to replace more Germans for military service. The British have forced the Germans to use up twice as many reserves as were employed in the Somme offensive, which ranks next to the present one in magnitude."

"The Germans," he continued, "claimed that by their so-called strategic retreat they inflicted a great defeat on the British in respect to their plans and that the Teutons held the situation in their own hands. Let me point again to the fact that the British plans for the Arras offensive were completed in February, before the German retreat began. Despite the German claims, we have continued our offensive according to the plan we laid out."

"During the month since the offensive began, we have taken twice the number of prisoners, four times the amount of ground and five times the number of guns taken in the Somme offensive. The British and French between them have captured some 50,000 prisoners and 450 guns. If this is the result of a defeat, then we are willing to go on being defeated. We save kept on going, and are going to keep on going. The Arras offensive is much bigger than the Somme, and our next offensive will be bigger than Arras."

"Regarding the German casualties, it is impossible of course to give figures, but there is no disputing the fact that they have been terrible and incomparably larger than ours."
Gen. Maurice was asked whether the Germans appeared to have with drawn troops from the eastern front for use in the west.

He replied there was no indication of this. On being asked whether the Russian crisis was causing any uneasiness in Allied military circles, he said: "Naturally there must be some uneasiness until the new Government is firmly on its feet. But it must be remembered that even had there been no revolution the Russians could not have started an offensive before this, because of the condition of the ground, due to the Russian winter. As a matter of fact, conditions are not yet favorable for operations in the east."

SHIPS COLLIDE.
One Man Missing in Detroit
River Mishap.

Detroit Report—The Wabash railroad car ferry Detroit, bound down in collision with the steamer Hankington, bound up, off the foot of Third Street, at 9:30 o'clock to-night. The latter vessel was so badly damaged that it is believed she cannot long remain afloat. One man is reported missing.

The Hankington was bound up with coal, and in some manner as yet not clear sheered suddenly into the Detroit, which was crossing the river from Detroit to Windsor. The impact was terrific, and the Hankington, which is a vessel of old wooden type, slowly backed away into the stream, her bows flattened in the water pouring into her from both sides. She went down in 50 feet of water within a few minutes.

The Hankington carried a crew of 20 men, nineteen of whom have been accounted for. One Detroit was not seriously damaged. The sunken craft was 120 feet long and 25 feet wide and 45 feet deep.

U. S. MINISTER REPORTS UPON ATROCITIES

Brand Whitlock, Minister to
Belgium, Exposes Real
German Spirit.

GERMAN BRUTALITY

Has Lead to a Great Many
Blunders and to Great
Bitterness.

The following despatch from Brand Whitlock, American Minister to Belgium, written in January, has been issued for publication by the U. S. department of State at Washington.

In order to fully understand the situation it is necessary to go back to the autumn of 1914. At the time we were organizing the relief work, the Comité National—the Belgian relief organization that collaborates with the Belgian Government—should pay to its own employees left in Belgium, and other unemployed men besides the wages they had been accustomed to receive. The Belgians wished to do this both for humanitarian and patriotic purposes; they wished to provide the unemployed with the means of livelihood, and, at the same time, to prevent their working for the Germans. The policy was adopted, and has been continued in practice, and on the rolls of the Comité National have been borne the names of hundreds of thousands of some 500,000, I believe—of idle men receiving this dole, distributed through the communes.

The presence of these unemployed, however, was a constant temptation to German cupidity. Many times they sought to obtain the lists of the chômeurs, but were always foiled by the claim that under the guarantees covering the relief work the records of the Comité National and its various sub-organizations were immune. Rather than risk any interruption of the ravishment, for which, while loan to own any obligation to America, the Germans have always been grateful, since it has had the effect of keeping the population calm, the authorities never pressed the point other than with the burgomasters of the commune. Finally, however, the military party, always brutal, and with an astounding ignorance of public opinion and of moral sentiment, determined to put these idle men to work.

In August, von Hindenburg was appointed to the supreme command. He is said to have criticized von Bissing's policy as too mild; there was a quarrel, and Bissing went to Berlin to protest, threatened to resign, but did not. He returned, and a German official here said that a Belgium would now be subjected to a more terrible regime—would learn what war was. The prophecy has been fulfilled.

The deportations began in October in the Etape, at Ghent and at Bruges. The policy spread; the rich industrial districts of Hainaut, the mines and steel works about Charleroi were next attacked, now they are seizing men in Brabant, even in Brussels, despite some indication and even predictions of the civil authorities, that the policy was about to be abandoned.

During the last fortnight men have been impressed here in Brussels, but their seizure here are made evidently with much greater care than in the provinces, with much regard for the appearance. There are no public announcements of the intention to deport, but suddenly, about ten days ago, certain men in town, whose names are on the list of chômeurs, received summonses notifying them to report at one of the railway stations on a given day; penalties were fixed for failure to respond to the summons, and there was printed on the card an offer of employment by the German Government either in Germany or Belgium. On the first day, out of about 1,500 men ordered to present themselves at the Gare du Midi, about 750 German physicians and 300 were taken. There was no disorder, a large force of mounted Uhlans herded back the crowds and barring access to the station to all but those who had been summoned to appear. The commission for relief in Belgium had secured permission to give each deported man a loaf of bread, and some of the communes provided warm clothing for those who had none, and in addition a small financial allowance. As by the frontiers of life, the winter has been more excessively cold than Belgium has ever known it, and while many of those who presented themselves were adequately protected against the cold, many of them were without overcoats, the parting from weeping wives and children, the barriers of brutal Uhlans, all this, made the scene a pitiable and distressing one.

It was understood that the seizures would continue here in Brussels, but those that had been convoked were sent home without examination. It is supposed that the severe weather the deportations.

The rage, the terror and despair excited by this measure all over Belgium were beyond anything we had witnessed since the day the Germans poured into Brussels. The delegates of the commission of relief in Belgium returning to Brussels, told the most distressing stories of the scenes of cruelty and sorrow attending the seizures. And daily, hourly almost, since that time, appalling stories have been related by Belgians coming to the legation. It is impossible for us to verify them, first, because it is necessary for

us to exercise all possible tact in dealing with the subjects at all and, secondly, because there is no means of communication between the Occupied Gebiet and the Etappen Gebiet. Transportation everywhere in Belgium is difficult, the vital railways scarcely operating any more because of the lack of oil, while all the horses have been taken. The people who are forced to go from one village to another must do so on foot or in vans drawn by the few miserable horses that are left. The wagons of the breweries, the one institution that the Germans have scrupulously respected, are hauled by oxen.

The well-known tendency of sensational reports to exaggerate themselves, especially in time of war, and in a situation like that existing here, with no newspapers to serve as a daily clearing house for all the rumors that are as avidly believed as they are eagerly repeated, should of course be considered, but even if a modicum of all that is told is true, there still remains enough to stamp this deed as one of the foulest that history records.

I am constantly in receipt of reports from all over Belgium that tend to bear out the stories one constantly hears of brutality and cruelty. A number of men sent back to Mons are said to be in a dying condition, many of them tubercular. At Malines and at Antwerp returned men have died, their friends asserting that they have been victims of neglect and cruelty, of cold, exposure, of hunger.

I have had requests from the burgomasters of ten communes from La Louvière, asking that permission be obtained to send to the deported men in Germany packages of food similar to those that are being sent to prisoners of war. Thus far the German authorities have refused to permit this except in special instances, and returning Belgians claim that even when such packages are received, they are used by the camp authorities only as another means of coercing them to sign the agreements to work.

It is said that in spite of the liberal salary promised those who would sign voluntarily no money has as yet been received in Belgium from workmen in Germany.

One interesting result of the deportations remains to be noted, a result that once more places in relief the German capacity for blundering, almost as great as the German capacity for cruelty.

They have dealt a mortal blow to any respect they may ever have had of being tolerated by the population of Flanders; in tearing away from nearly every humble home in the land a husband and a father or a son and a brother that will never go out; they have brought home to every heart in the land, in a way that will impress its horror indelibly on the memory of three generations, a realization of what German methods mean, not as with early atrocities, in the heat of passion and the first lust of war, but by one of those deeds that make one despair of the future of the human race, a deed coldly planned, studiously matured and deliberately and systematically executed, added so cruel that German soldiers are said to have wept in its execution, and so monstrous that even German officers are now said to be ashamed.

RUSZKY LOSES HIS COMMAND

Russ General Superseded On
Northern Front.

Opposition to Coalition Gov-
ernment Forms.

Petrograd Cable—General Ruszky has been removed from the chief command of the army on the northern front. He remains, however, a member of the Council of War.

The Moscow executive committee of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates is opposed to the idea of a coalition Government, and advocates the immediate summoning of an all-Russian congress of soldiers and workmen's delegates.

The Provisional Government will, however, insist on coalition in order to force the Socialists to share in the responsibility of the government of the country. They have repeated the appeal recently issued warning the people against anarchy and civil war, with a possible return to despotism.

Maxim Gorky, whose anti-British outbursts and assertions that Dr. Rau, Milukoff, the Russian foreign minister, is in the pay of Anglo-French capitalists, daily mark the columns of his newspaper New Life, foreshadows another political crisis, in which the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates will endeavor to retrieve their position. The council is very angry at the course of recent events.

ALLY LABOR MEN

And Socialists, to Confer in
London in June.

London Cable—The Times Parliamentary correspondent writes: At a meeting last night of the national executive of the Labor party an invitation from the Dutch section of the International Socialist Bureau to the British Labor party to attend a Socialist conference at Stockholm was considered. The executive decided that it could not associate itself in any way with the proposed conference, as the calling of the Stockholm conference by the Dutch section was irregular. The conference apparently has no definite object in view, and will possess no mandate. In view of the present circumstances of the war, the fact that Russia is reorganizing to achieve liberty, and the decision of the United States of America to throw its weight into the balance to secure universal and lasting peace on the basis of international life, the national executive of the Labor party cannot risk any such undertaking.

KILLER FOUND FOR THE U-BOAT

U. S. Naval Experts Amazed
at the Invention

Which Can Be Put to Work
in Short Time.

Washington Cable says—It was learned last night on unquestionable authority that the Naval Consulting Board has admitted to Secretary Daniels and his advisers a definite and completed plan to cope with the German U-boats which has proved a revelation to the best technical brains in the service here.

It was this plan which W. L. Saunders, chairman of the board, had referred to when he announced on Saturday that he believed the submarine problem solved. Heads of various branches of the navy who have admittedly been sceptical and who have unanimously changed their views since the meeting at the home of Secretary Daniels Wednesday night.

Strict censorship necessarily bars discussion of any of the technical features of the plan, but it is within bounds to make the following announcement, which should be of the greatest interest to the British and French commissions here as well as to the general public.

The plan is based on a novel anti-submarine device or invention, which is theoretically sound and which is a radical departure from any invention put into operation or heretofore thought of.

Elmer A. Sperry, inventor of the gyroscope compass and one of the leading inventive geniuses in the United States navy, is the inventor.

Within two or three weeks the Navy Department will have completed practical tests of the invention under the guidance of naval officers from various technical branches in the service which will show definitely whether or not there is any unforeseen obstacle in the way of putting the invention to use.

The invention is of such a character that it can be put into operation in the war zone almost immediately. It requires no elaborate preparation or construction work, but can be made a factor in the campaign against the U-boat this summer.

The invention is chiefly in the nature of direct offensive operations against the submarine. It is not merely designed to protect merchantmen or to reduce the ravages of the U-boats, but is calculated to eradicate them altogether.

The extent of the effectiveness of the invention against the submarines, provided expectations of the Navy Department are not disappointed, will depend merely on extending its operations from limited shores to a broad sweeping scale. Initial operations on a small scale will be begun, it is contemplated, while the so-called, branching out plan is being put into operation.

BRITISH CROP OUTLOOK POOR

Reports are Almost Uni-
formly Discouraging.

Much Autumn Sowing Com-
pletely Wasted.

London Cable—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Reports of the agricultural outlook in Great Britain are almost uniformly discouraging. Not even the oldest farmer recalls a more trying time than that through which he has just been passing. A late sowing, a poor yield, a wet autumn and a severe winter, have been followed by a spring with all the marked characteristics of Locust-year.

The state of the fields is called in the agricultural reports "serious," although it is still possible that a period of warm weather might change the situation considerably by the end of May. The history of many of the best of the British crops this year is a story of sowing in November and reaping in April. In many cases the autumn sowing was destroyed completely, and some fresh sowing had to be hastily devised.

The wheat area, it is stated, cannot be large this year. Oats cannot yet be estimated, and barley for some reason is in danger, although on good barley lands there is yet a sound crop to grow.

moment to push ahead their planting. Everything is late. The farmers' calendar is out of gear, for the farmer must wait upon the weather. Potato planting in normal years is completed in England by mid-April, and this same may be said of barley and oats. Moreover, there is a considerable scarcity of seed, owing to the wide destruction of autumn-sown crops, and there are appeals for economy in seed stocks.

The severe winter has undoubtedly left some of the more troublesome self-sown plants and trees, and if cultivation should proceed at once, a good seed bed could undoubtedly be made.

Owing to the shortage of cattle food-stuffs, there will be a large reduction in numbers of livestock on the farms during the next three months.

"The trouble with my boy Josh is that he's always ahead of the times," remarked Farmer Cornsoul. "What has he done?" "Went to town to see about a position. He found a strike in progress and joined the strike before he got the job."—Washington Star.