

CURRENT EVENTS

May 1.—London reports that tremendous artillery fire is resumed all along the battle-front in Flanders.

The French report artillery actions in the Villers-Bretonneux region, on both banks of the Avre, and in the region north of Montdidier.

An important conference of Premiers, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Orlando, with the representatives of France, Great Britain, Italy and the United States, in the Supreme War-Council opens in Versailles.

May 2.—London reports that during April 585 airplanes were downed. The Allies claim 470 and the enemy 115. The total for March was 1,059.

An official report from Berlin announces that Sebastopol, the great Russian fortress in the Crimea, has been occupied. This gives Germany possession of the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. It is also announced that the German have established military rule in Kief, the Ukrainian capital, and members of the government, including the Minister of War, have been arrested as "too weak to maintain law and order."

May 3.—London dispatches state that the French in a brilliant offensive take important positions between Hailles and Castel at the point of the Somme salient, where the Germans had approached nearest to Amiens.

May 4.—The French report heavy bombardments in the neighborhood of the Avre. Several French raids were made near the Oise and Ailette Rivers and west of La Pompelle, a number of prisoners being taken. There was no infantry fighting. Paris reports that news has been received from the Front that a French gun made a direct hit on one of the German long range guns putting it out of action.

A Washington dispatch states that the British Mission estimates the British casualties in the Western drive so far as approximately 250,000.

May 6.—London reports that the British Colonial forces took the offensive in Flanders and Picardy, the Australians and the Canadians making gains in vital sectors near Morlancourt, between the Ancre and the Somme, making the total for two days 3,500 yards at one point penetrating to a depth of more than a third of a mile. The Canadians struck in the Arras sector.

A London dispatch states that the British, in the course of operations east of the Jordan between April 30 and May 4, captured one German and 49 Turkish officers, forty-two Germans and 843 Turks, twenty-nine machine guns, and six motor-lorries.

May 7.—A Paris dispatch states that Premier Clemenceau, returning from the front, declares that American troops are continuing to arrive in force. He believes the entente forces to be invincible.

May 8.—An official British statement received in Washington states that more than forty German warships have been successfully attacked and that the "enemy now rarely allows his above-water craft beyond the confines of his harbors.

The British official statement on aerial operations states that on May 7 twelve hostile machines were brought down

in air-fighting, eight of them being accounted for in a big engagement near Douai. A German observation balloon is reported to have been brought down in flames. None of the British machines are missing.

A dispatch from Washington states that news received from Switzerland reports serious disturbances among the crews of the Austro-Hungarian Fleet, which were put down with difficulty and have caused changes in the high command.

May 9.—Paris reports that within five minutes on May 7 Sublieutenant Nungesser brought down his thirty-third and thirty-fourth German airplane and damaged another.

May 10.—The British Admiralty reports that the operations designed to close the ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge were completed yesterday when the obsolete cruiser *Vindictive*, filled with concrete was sunk between the piers at the entrance of Ostend harbor. The British light forces are reported to have returned to their base with the loss of one motor-launch.

May 11.—The French officially report violent artillery preparation by the enemy followed by attacks by special assault troops on the French positions in the Bois la Caune. The enemy was driven out after gaining a footing.

Washington announces that more than 1,300,000 men have thus far been called in the draft and are either in France, in camp, or under call for service before June 1st.

May 12.—A dispatch from the headquarters of the Italian Army states that after a long period of inactivity owing to weather conditions, a brilliant operation was executed on the night of May 10, capturing the dominating position of Monte Corno, destroying an elaborate system of enemy defenses, and taking 100 prisoners and a number of guns and material.

Vienna dispatches state that a supplementary treaty has been concluded between Roumania and Austria-Hungary by which Roumania pledges for five years the Roumanian bank balances at the German Reichsbank. A similar treaty is concluded with Germany.

May 13.—A London dispatch states that the Associated press is officially informed that the statement is an error as sent out from Ottawa attributing to the War Committee of the British Cabinet the announcement that the American Army would not be used on the Western Front until it became a complete and powerful force. Both secretary of war Baker and the Earl of Reading, the British Ambassador to the United States, denied the report.

May 14.—The Italian War Office announces that attempts to renew the attack on Monte Corno, and to approach the Italian lines as Dosso Casina and in Balcino and Ornic valleys, fail with heavy loss to the enemy.

James Gordon Bennett, owner and director of the New York Herald, dies at his residence in Beaulieu, France. He was seventy-seven years old on May 10.

May 15.—Paris reports that a loyal Russian regiment on the Picardy front delivered a heavy attack on the Germans, recapturing the village of Billers-Vretonneux.