

# BRITISH OCCUPATION OF BAGDAD BLASTS LAST GERMAN HOPES OF DOMINATION IN THE NEAR EAST

## BRITISH IN SUCCESSFUL DASH CAPTURE VILLAGE OF IRLES IN ANCRE REGION

French Make Surprise Attack and Take a Number of Prisoners and One Machine Gun.

German Attempt to Storm French Trenches Frustrated—Enemy Munitions Depot Blown up Near L'Echedde-Staurone by Artillery Fire.

London, Mar. 10.—In an advance today on a front of more than three miles in the Ancre region in France, British troops attacked and captured the village of Irles and its neighboring defenses, according to the official statement from British headquarters issued tonight. More than 100 German prisoners already have been counted, and fifteen machine guns and four trench mortars were captured.

The statement reads: "Today we attacked and captured the village of Irles and its neighboring defenses. The advance was made to extend over a front of over three miles. We have taken a considerable number of prisoners, of whom more than 100 already have reached the collecting stations. Four trench mortars and fifteen machine guns were captured. Our casualties were slight."

"Yesterday an aerial patrol of our machines was engaged heavily by a strong hostile formation. Four of our airplanes failed to return; one of the enemy machines is known to have been brought down."

London, Mar. 11.—The report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "The total prisoners taken in yesterday's successful operations against Irles numbered three officers and 289 men."

"During the night a hostile attack was observed preparing in the enemy's trenches west and northwest of Irles before it could develop. There was considerable artillery activity on both sides during the night and today in the area of the Somme and the Ancre, south of Arras, and in the neighborhood of Arrertrieres and Ypres."

French Attacks Successful. Paris, Mar. 11.—French troops last night made several successful surprise attacks on the German trenches in the sectors of Lassigny and Camy-Sur-Metz, and north of Jury Wood, in the Woëvre region, says the official statement issued this afternoon by the war office. The statement reads: "We were successful in several surprise attacks on the German trenches in the regions of Lassigny and Camy-Sur-Metz and in the Woëvre region, north of the Jury Wood. In the course of these operations we captured about fifteen prisoners and one machine gun. The activity of the artillery of both sides was rather spirited in the sector of Maisons De Champagne."

"In Alsace an enemy surprise attack against our small outposts in the region of Largentz failed under our fire. The night was calm on the other parts of the front."

"Aviation: It is confirmed that the German airplane which was brought down in an aerial fight was the fourth enemy machine to fall in the vicinity of Roye."

"In the region of Nouvron, north of the Aisne, the two armies displayed great activity. An attempted surprise attack on a salient in our lines north of Rheims was stopped short by our fire and cost the enemy losses."

"On the right bank of the Meuse another enemy attempt in the region of Bezonvaux completely failed. On the left bank we carried out successful fires on the German organizations in the sector of Forges. A munitions depot exploded."

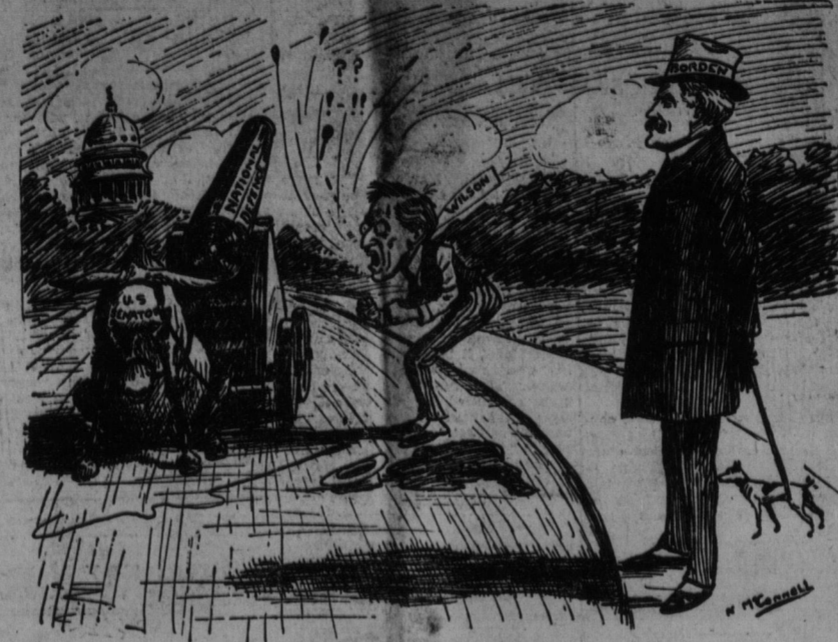
"There was intermittent cannonading on the rest of the front, more spirited in the sectors of Maisons De Champagne and Nouvron."

"Last night a German airplane dropped bombs on Belfort; there were neither casualties nor damage."

Belgian communication: "Bomb fighting took place throughout the night in the region of Steenstraete and Het Sas. Today there was great artillery activity along the Belgian front, particularly east of Camscapelle and in the direction of Dixmude."

Munitions Depot Destroyed. "South of the Acre the fire of our batteries exploded an enemy munitions depot near L'Echedde-Staurone. In Champagne quite spirited artillery fighting took place in the sectors of St. Hilaire-Le-Grand and Maisons De Champagne. There was no infantry action. An intermittent cannonade occurred on the rest of the front."

"A German airplane was brought down by our special guns in the region of St. Mihiel."



A SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE

## RUSSIANS NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR FORCES AND BRITISH IN MESOPOTAMIA

Have Occupied Town of Sahna in Persia and Have the Turks on the Run—Attacks of Enemy Repulsed in Asia Minor.

Petrograd, March 11, via London.—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press).—Reporting military operations on the Russian and Roumanian fronts the official statement issued today by the Russian war office says: "Western front: In the region of Schmaraden, southeast of Tuekum, and east of the Mitau road, gas attacks were made by us."

"On the rest of the front reciprocal firing and skirmishes between scouts have taken place."

"Aviation: In the direction of Sventon our airplanes raided the railway stations of Baranovog, northwest of Naroc Lake, and Godunijst, upon which bombs were dropped."

"Roumanian front: Fighting continues for possession of heights north-west of Okna. The Russian troops are repulsed."

"Caucasus front: The Turks attempted an offensive along the Sivas road but were repulsed."

"As the result of fighting in the region of Hamadan our detachments occupied Sahna on March 7. Pursued by our troops the enemy after stubborn resistance retreated towards Bilsit. Munition stores in Sahna were captured by us."

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## WILSON EVER THE FRIEND OF ENGLAND

German Newspapers Bitterly Make This Charge Against Chief Executive of United States.

Berlin, via London, Mar. 11.—The reported utterances of President Wilson, on the occasion of the luncheon at the White House to the Democratic National Commission, more especially his explicit reference to Alsace-Lorraine, has called forth severe editorial comment. The Vossische Zeitung says: "Mr. Wilson is thus gradually lifting the mask of a peace-loving neutral, which he never quite afforded so firmly that it was impossible to recognize his true face. He now abandons all remnants of political reserve, and openly proclaims himself the friend of England he has ever been."

"In his debate to his previous attitude, in which he asserted that the United States had no occasion to investigate the causes of the war, he now, in a public speech, accuses the Central Powers of having plotted the war. The tactical object of this demonstration is quite plain. So far as the war of autocratic governments concerned, the will of their peoples is Wilson that in the war, which his friends and partisans have launched against us, the government and people are one in spirit and one in will. Germany is not, as is the United States, a debating society, but a united people of action. As reference we quote our enemies, these friends of Mister Wilson."

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## BRITISH TROOPS ENTERED CITY OF BAGDAD AS DAWN WAS BREAKING ON SUNDAY

No Details Yet Available As to Whether Any Important Captures of Men or Materials Made.

Fall of Town Ends German Hopes of Near East Domination and Will Rehabilitate British Prestige in the Far East.

London, Mar. 11.—General Frederick Stanley Maude, in command of the Entente forces in Mesopotamia, telegraphed today the welcome news for the British of the occupation, early this morning, of the city of Bagdad, the chief Turkish city in Mesopotamia, and formerly the capital of the empire of the Caliphs.

No details of the capture have yet been received. General Maude's story of the operation carrying events only up to Saturday morning, when the British after effecting a surprise crossing of the Diala and bridging the Tigris, had driven the Turks back to within three miles of Bagdad. It is evident, however, that the Turks have been unable to offer any serious resistance since the fall of Kut-el-Amara. They were said to be hastily summoning reinforcements from other theatres of the war where Turks were engaged, but the distances to be covered were so great that additional forces were unable to arrive in time to save the ancient city, which, after Mecca, occupies first place in the Mohammedan imagination.

Blasts German Hopes. The fall of Bagdad, besides ending German hopes of near eastern domination, based on a Berlin-Bagdad railway, with headquarters throughout the Mohammedan empire and it is believed will more than rehabilitate British prestige in the far east, damaged by the earlier losses of Kut-el-Amara.

Perhaps no more welcome news could come at a time when the British public, for the first time, owing to the submarine warfare, is beginning to feel the effects of the war in a greatly reduced food supply, besides being thrown into a fit of depression by the revelations of the Dardanelles report. Further news must be awaited before it is known whether Gen. Maude made important captures of Turkish troops or guns, either before or at Bagdad.

Apparently the occupation was effected without resistance, and with only slight losses.

Severe Blow to Turks. Even if the Turks succeeded in evacuating all their forces, the loss of Bagdad is a grave blow to them. Bagdad has been the base for all Turkish operations in Persia. Up to within a few days the Turks occupied about 30,000 square miles of Persian territory, but with the Russians pressing them closely from Kirmanshah, as well as from the direction of Erzerum, indications point to a speedy junction of the British and Russian forces, which would soon compel the Turks to evacuate Persian territory.

Saturday's Fighting. During the day the following official report was received concerning the operations against Bagdad, carrying them up to Saturday morning, when the Turks had been forced back to within three miles west and south-west of the city: "Our forces engaged with the Turks on the Diala line the night of the 8th succeeded, despite the bright moonlight, in effecting a surprise crossing

of the Diala, and establishing a strong post on the right bank thereof. Meanwhile, on the morning of the 8th, the Tigris having been bridged at some distance down stream, a British detachment marched up to the right bank and found the enemy holding a position about six miles southwest of Bagdad.

"The enemy was driven from this position to another position two miles in the rear. During the night of the 8th a passage of the Diala was forced, and our troops advanced some four miles toward Bagdad.

"During the ninth our forces on the right bank (Tigris) drove the enemy from his second position, by attacking on the ground gained. This advantage despite a blinding dust storm and a violent gale, was pressed on the morning of the 10th, the Turks being forced back to within three miles west and southwest of Bagdad."

Fall of Bagdad a Mortal Blow to Turkish Prestige. Paris, March 11.—The capture of Bagdad created all the more enthusiasm here by reason of the fact that it was totally unexpected. Even the most optimistic of the military commentators never imagined that the fall of the city would come so soon, in view of the length of the British line of communication, which seemed to all for great prudence and caution.

Gen. De Le Croix, writing in this afternoon's Temps, which was printed before the news of the capture of Bagdad was received, said: "The fall of this city would be an event of such importance that our adversaries will attempt to delay it by every means in their power."

The rapidity with which the city was carried is interpreted in competent circles as an indication that the Turks are in a worse plight than was generally believed. The political effect of the event is held to be of equal importance to the military effect. In army circles it is considered to be a mortal blow to Turkish prestige.

## ADRIATIC CAME THROUGH AND SAW NO SIGN OF SUBMARINE

Big White Star Liner Which Left Liverpool March 1st Reaches New York in Safety—Exercised Vigilance all the Time but was in No Danger.

New York, March 11.—The Associated Press sends out the following: "The White Star Line steamer Adriatic, which left Liverpool March 1, arrived here Saturday with 278 passengers. Officers of the ship said the German submarine zone was crossed without unusual incident. Nothing resembling a submarine was sighted during the voyage, but a six-inch gun, mounted on the stern of the ship and manned by experienced naval gunners, was kept ready constantly for instant use. It was not left unattended for a moment until the ship was well within American territorial waters. Before leaving port the Adriatic also was equipped with devices to shroud the ship in smoke in case of danger."

"Among the steerage passengers were 65 seamen and horsemen, many of the latter Americans from torpedoed and wrecked vessels, and from ships purchased here and taken over to trade on the other side of the Atlantic. Some of the men were from the Leyland liner Leyland, which went ashore in a fog on the South Wales coast on Feb. 24 with a cargo of horses and grain from Newport News, and afterwards broke up."

"Capt. H. Takashima, master of the Japanese steamer Chinto Maru, torpedoed and sunk January 4 when 200 miles off Gibraltar, also was on board. Takashima is returning to Japan."

## HUNS SANK THE PINNA; NO WARNING THOUSANDS STARVING IN GREECE NOW

Men Were Asleep when Torpedo Struck and Had to Fight their Way to Boats Through Oil Flood.

New York, Mar. 11.—The British tank steamer Pinna, of 6,288 tons, with a cargo of oil from Gulf ports by way of Newport News, was sunk by a German submarine Feb. 11, about 20 miles off the Irish coast, members of her crew reported on their arrival here today on the White Star liner Adriatic from Liverpool.

Three of the crew were Americans, of whom Archie Gibb and Tom Wilson, both of Newport News, were among the arrivals today. According to Gibb the ship was torpedoed at night and without warning. He said many of the crew were in their bunks and the first they knew of the attack was the explosion that threw them out on the floor of the forecastle.

"They had to fight their way to the deck through a flood of oil. All hands managed to get safely away in boats before the ship went down."

"The Pinna was owned by the Petroleum Steamship Company of London and was built in 1901.

Connaught had a restless night and day, but her strength was maintained. The late bulletin tonight says: "There is no change for the better."

## FREIGHTS COLLIDE AT PETIT ROCHER

None of the Trainmen Injured but Considerable Rolling Stock Destroyed.

Moncton, N. B., March 11.—The C. G. R. line at Petit Rocher was blocked from one o'clock this morning until five this afternoon by a rear-end collision between freight trains. The Maritime eastbound was detained west of the wreck. None of the trainmen were injured in the wreck, but rolling stock was damaged and track torn up. This is one of several wrecks in the last two or three days at different points along the northern C. G. R. and the N. T. R.

Quite a lot of damage has resulted to rolling stock.

In many deaths daily in the capital alone. The lack of coal has forced mills to suspend, and the masses are suffering, not only from hunger, but from dire poverty, due to lack of work."

In another statement the legation denied published reports that a part of the salary of King Constantine is paid by England and France.

Washington, March 11.—Another gloomy picture of conditions in Greece resulting from the Entente blockade has been cabled to the Greek legation here by the new ministry of supplies, with an urgent appeal for hastening the shipment of wheat from the United States. A statement issued tonight by the legation says: "There should now be about \$20,000,000 worth of supplies and food stuffs, which have been completely exhausted by the 100 days of blockade of Greece, bought and paid for in the United States, and either waiting shipment or held up en route by the allied prohibition of any commerce between Greece and the United States. For such of these supplies as have not already been shipped in neutral vessels, detained during the blockade at Gibraltar, Malta or other allied ports on the way, the Greek government has already chartered vessels to carry the articles to Greece as rapidly as possible."

All reports from Greece received by the Greek legation indicate that the suffering among the Greek people is beyond description. An epidemic of which the Greeks are reduced, results