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War News.

Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M

OFFICIAL.

LONDON, March 11.

Governor, St. John's.

Mesopotamia—Surprise crossing of the Diala Rivern on the night of the 8th. During the 8th the enemy was driven from a position six miles southwest of Bagdad. On the 9th the passage of the Diala River was forced. Bagdad was occupied early on the 11th.

LONG.

NOTHING OFFICIAL YET.

LONDON, March 10.

The Daily Chronicle says it is virtually certain that British troops are now in Bagdad, and that official confirmation of this may be expected at any moment. The Chronicle's military correspondent, upon whose information the assertion apparently was based, writes: One is entitled to assume that the city was occupied without any serious fighting, and we shall probably learn that our cavalry dashed through it and along the Tigris toward Sandra."

VILLAGE OF IRLES CAPTURED.

LONDON, March 11.

The official statement from the British headquarters in France reads: To-day we attacked and captured the village of Irles, northeast of Grandecourt, and its neighboring defences. The advance made extends 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 while on aerial patrol our machines were engaged heavily by a strong hostile formation. Four of our aeroplanes failed to return. One enemy machine is known to have been brought down.

GENERAL MAUDE'S REPORT.

LONDON, March 11.

A statement was issued to-day on receipt of a telegram from General Maude, saying that British forces had occupied Bagdad early Saturday morning. Later the following official report was received concerning the operations against Bagdad, carrying them up to Saturday morning when the Turks had been forced back within three miles west and southwest of the city: Our forces were engaged with the Turks on the Diala line on the night of the 8th and succeeded despite a 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 some distance down the stream, a British detachment marched up the right bank and found the enemy holding a position about six miles southwest of Bagdad. The enemy was driven from this position. During the night of the 9th the passage of the Diala was forced and our troops advanced four miles toward Bagdad. During the 9th our forces on the right bank of the Tigris drove the enemy from his position, and the ground was gained. This advantage despite a blinding dust storm and violent gale, was pressed on the morning of the 10th, the Turks being forced back within three miles southwest of Bagdad.

ADMIT RETIREMENT.

BERLIN, March 11.

A German retreat before the British is admitted officially. The German report declares that after infantry fighting with the British troops at Irles on the Ancre River, the German rearguard detachments retired to the Teuton main position in accordance with the orders of their commanders.

AFTER THE TURKS.

PETROGRAD, March 11.

The Russian troops have occupied Sahna, in Northwestern Persia, and are pursuing the retreating Turks towards Bisutun. A Turkish offensive has been repulsed along the Sivas Road in Asia Minor.

FRENCH SURPRISE ATTACKS.

PARIS, March 11.

The French troops last night made several successful surprise attacks on the German trenches in the sectors of Massigny and Canny Sur Metz, and north of Jury Wood, in the Woevre region, says the official statement issued this afternoon by the War Department.

FRENCH AND BELGIAN OFFICIALS

PARIS, March 11.

The official communications issued by the War Office to-night reads: South of Avre the fire of our batteries exploded an enemy munitions depot near Les Helles Staturin. In Champagne quite spirited artillery fighting took place in the sectors of St. Hillaire Le Grand and Maison-de-Champagne; there was no infantry action. An intermittent cannonade occurred on the rest of the front.

Belgian Communication—There was artillery fighting between Dixmude and Nieuport, and bomb fighting in the region of Steenstraete.

FIGHTING IN CHAMPAGNE.

PARIS, March 10.

Violent fighting occurred in the Champagne last night in consequence of a German attempt to recapture the ground won by the French between Butte Dumesnil and Maison de Champagne. To-day's official says that after several desperate charges had been made with alternate advances and retreats, the French succeeded in holding all the ground they had gained and in making fresh progress. On the Verdun front the Germans attacked the trenches recaptured by the French north of Curieres Wood. They penetrated these positions at some points, but were ejected by counter attacks. The French continued their raids, penetrating the German positions east of Armancourt as far as the third trenches and taking prisoners near Crouy, northeast of Soissons.

PETROGRAD FOOD SUPPLY.

LONDON, March 10.

The management of all food supplies in Petrograd districts has been placed in the hands of the municipal authorities.

PERU REBELLION.

BUENOS AYRES, March 10.

Peru is aflame with a rebellion, the seriousness of which was not realized until to-day, when information smuggled across the border to evade a strict government censorship, detailed the fiercest sort of fighting in Lima, the capital, Cuzco, Callao and Arequipa, in which many persons have been killed and wounded. Admiral Graus, of the Peruvian navy, and his son have been assassinated. The Peruvian warships have been dismantled by the government to prevent their seizure by rebels.

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP SUNK.

LONDON, March 11.

Official information was received here to-day to the effect that the Norwegian steamer Storstad, the Belgian relief ship, which had one American citizen on board, was sunk by a submarine, and that 27 members of the crew, including the American, had landed. One member of the crew died from exposure and the others are missing. It is stated officially that the Storstad was flying the flag of the American Commission for the relief of Belgium and bore the markings designed for relief ships. The Storstad was carrying 1,000 tons of maize, which was badly needed in Belgium, where the shortage as the result of the detention of grain cargoes will soon be felt severely. The Storstad was ordered to leave Las Palmas on Feb. 26. She took coal at Gibraltar, and the master was instructed to proceed to Rotterdam by the northerly route. The Storstad's fourth engineer died of exposure. Two boats containing more than thirty men are missing. Capt. Andersen of the Storstad, the despatch adds, said the Germans could see the Belgian relief signs on the Storstad quite clearly. "When we were in open boat," the captain declared, "I asked the German commander to give us a tow, and told him it was bad business. He did not reply, but made off at full speed. They then commenced to fire shells. Some fell dangerously near us." The members of the crew were in a state of collapse from cold when they landed. The Storstad figured extensively in the news three years ago, after having been in collision in the St. Lawrence with the Canadian Pacific Railway liner Empress of Ireland, which sank with the loss of more than one thousand lives. The commission of investigation after an extensive hearing held the Storstad was to blame for the disaster.

GERARD AT HAVANA.

HAVANA, March 11.

Jas. W. Gerard, former American Ambassador to Germany, and party, arrived at Havana on Sunday morning from Corunna, aboard the steamer Infanta Isabel. Gerard refused to make any statement before reaching Washington. Passengers refused to be quoted regarding conditions in Germany, but it was learned the situation is serious, the food scarcity causing suffering in the smaller towns. The members would not be quoted regarding the military situation.

AMERICAN ARMED MERCHANTMEN.

WASHINGTON, March 11.

The mere appearance of a German submarine or its periscope in the vicinity of an American armed merchant vessel, would entitle the ship, according to the State Department to-day, to take all measures of protection on the assumption that the U-boat's purpose was hostile. Under this ruling an American armed merchantman could fire on a German submarine the moment she was sighted without being considered taking aggressive action. This view is based on Germany's declaration of intention to sink on sight, within certain zones, all vessels, neutral as well as belligerent, whether passenger vessels, freighters or contraband carriers. Whether the Government will issue general rules for the guidance of American armed ship commanders is uncertain at present. Opposition to such action has been expressed on the ground that the situation now is entirely clear. In all events the action of the commander must depend upon his judgment of the actual conditions prevailing. That the Government does not wish to take any steps which might be construed as a deliberately hostile act by Germany, is evident.

BERNSTORFF AT CHRISTIANIA.

LONDON, March 11.

Count Von Bernstorff, former Minister to Washington, arrived at Christiania on Sunday morning.

IN IGNORANCE CONCERNING EVENTS.

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, March 11.

Count Von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador to the United States arrived here aboard the steamer Frederick VIII. He told the Associated Press he was ignorant of the political developments of the last four weeks and was not in a position therefore to make any comment on them. When the ex-Ambassador learned of the disclosure of Germany's effort to make an alliance with Mexico he expressed surprise, and added, "It is news to me."

BRITISH OIL TANKER SUNK.

NEW YORK, March 11.

The British tank steamer Pinna, 6,288 tons, with a cargo of oil from Gulf ports by way of Newport News, was sunk by a German submarine on Feb. 11th, about 20 miles off the Irish coast. The White Star liner Adriatic from Liverpool landed the crew here.

OCCUPIED AGAIN.

LONDON, March 11.

General Frederick Stanley Maude, who is in command of the Entente forces in Mesopotamia, telegraphed to-day 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 capital of the empire of the Caliphs. No details of the capture are yet received. General Maude's story of the operations carrying the events only up to Saturday morning when the British, after effecting a surprise crossing of the Diala and bridging the Tigris, drove the Turks back within three miles of Bagdad. It is evident, however, 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 the 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 the first place in Mohammedan imagination. The fall of Bagdad besides ending German hopes of near eastern dominion based on the Berlin-Bagdad railway, will reverberate throughout the Mohammedan empires, and it is believed will more than rehabilitate the British prestige in the east, damaged by the earlier loss 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 war, is beginning to feel the effects of the war in greatly reduced food supply, besides being thrown into a fit of depression by the revelations in the Dardanelles report. Further news must be awaited before it is known whether General Maude made any important captures of Turkish troops or guns either before or at Bagdad. Apparently the occupation was effected without resistance and with only slight losses. Even if the Turks succeeded in extricating all their forces the loss of Bagdad is a great blow to them. Bagdad has been the base of 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-Russian forces, which would soon compel the Turkish evacuation of Persian territory.

WHAT TAFT SAYS.

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vermont, March 11.

"If a United States armed merchantman sights and sinks a German submarine, as I hope she will," said former President Taft at a meeting here last night, "the next step will be up to Germany. If, however, the submarine sinks the American ship, the next step will be up to the United States." Taft, who explained the purposes of the league to enforce peace, said the deck of an American ship was as inviolable as American territory.

PRESIDENT OF MEXICO.

MEXICO CITY, March 11.

General Venustiano Carranza was to-day elected President of Mexico by what is believed to have been the largest vote ever cast here. Although the voters had the privilege of writing in or declaring any name they desired, General Carranza received all but scattered ballots. It is estimated the vote cast runs all the way from several hundred thousand to a million. Mexico will now have a constitutional President for the first time since 1911.

PRISONERS TAKEN.

LONDON, March 11.

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 Lens. It was crushed by our artillery before it could develop.

TORNADO.

DAYTON, Ohio, March 11.

Telephone messages from Richmond, Indiana, says fro m35 to 70 persons were killed at Newcastle this afternoon. The tornado swept down Lincoln Avenue demolishing houses. Three hundred homes were demolished.

WHITE STAR LINER ARRIVES.

NEW YORK, March 11.

(By Associated Press.)—The White Star liner Adriatic which left Liverpool on March 1st has arrived with 278 passengers. The officers of the ship said the German submarine zone was crossed without unusual incident nothing resembling a submarine was sighted during the voyage, but the six inch gun mounted on the stern was manned by experienced naval gunners and not left unmanned for a moment until the ship was well within American waters. Before leaving she was also equipped with devices to throw the ship in smoke in case of danger.

IRLES CAPTURED.

NEW YORK, March 11.

(From the Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, British Headquarters, France, March 11, via London, March 12.)—The capture of the village of Irles yesterday morning by the British completely upset the German retirement plans in that section of their lines. During the forward movement of the past fortnight Irles was one of the villages where the Germans made desperate resistance. The Germans could no longer withstand increasing artillery fire of the British and the German commander issued retirement orders. Two hours before this manoeuvre was to be attempted the British fell upon the German position and in addition to inflicting heavy casualties bagged nearly 300 prisoners, 16 machine guns and 4 trench mortars. Prisoners are among the best taken on the front. The captured German officers seemed particularly chagrined that their plan had been thwarted. All along the Ancre-Somme sectors the British guns were booming to-day. It was a steady roar.

HITT AND RUNN—It Certainly Didn't Take the Old Gent Very Long to Decide That "Youth Must Be Served"! BY HITT