

YOU'LL BE SURE TO FIND IT IN "The MAIL and ADVOCATE"

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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Fierce German Advance Failed to Capture Ypres Led to Gains by the Allies

Dunkirk, Dec. 15.—With desperate energy a German attack has been directed against Ypres and in the end the Kaiser's troops have retired to their trenches utterly exhausted.

The nature of the fighting may be judged by the reports which speak of 24,000 casualties within three days over an area, extending a few kilometres north and south of the town.

The outcome has been an advance by the Allies, and it is now reported on excellent authority that the way is clear to Roulers. That town has not been taken up to last night, but a solid wedge has been driven into the German line at this point.

Some details of the renewed fighting have reached me here. The Germans, as usual, opened with bombardment with the French point d'appui St. Eloi. Heavy artillery was brought up however, and an effective reply was given to the German big guns.

The Allies went forward under cover of this fire, but they encountered determined resistance at Moorsledge, a village on the railway between Ypres and Roulers. At Moorsledge the Germans had collected a number of trucks, which were filled with armor plate and concealed on sidings around the railway station.

From this quarter a sweeping fire was directed upon the approaching forces, machine guns and rifles sending a hail of bullets which necessitated a brief retirement for the reformation of the ranks.

The Germans advanced confidently to the neighborhood of Zonnebeke, where the country is wooded, lending itself to defensive tactics. Our troops were posted on the heights of Gheluvelt and from this position were able to stem the rush, whereupon the Germans began to shell the woods.

At a favorable moment a general advance by the Allies was ordered, and the Germans were driven back, Moorsledge being again reached. Earlier the position of the armored railway trucks had been reported by telephone and French and British shells were directed upon the station and its sidings. One evidently hit an ammunition wagon, for a tremendous explosion occurred, sending three of the trucks off the rails.

The enemy found the position untenable and retreated under the persistent shell fire. Thus the way was opened to Roulers.

Other German Attacks. In the meantime other attacks had been directed upon the Allied positions at Poelcapelle, Passchendaele, Langemarck and Bixschote. Langemarck occupied by the French was heavily shelled, whereupon the town was evacuated, the troops dashing out to meet the attack.

The Germans hoped to break through by sheer weight of numbers, and their protracted attacks led to fighting at close quarters all along the line, but nowhere did German attempts succeed. Red Cross officials who were attending the wounded at Ypres described the onslaught as the fiercest that the Germans may have so far. The boom of artillery was heard a distance of thirty kilometers (almost nineteen miles).

Officers with whom I discussed the general situation firmly believe that German resistance is broken in the west. It is of course, forbidden to mention the movement of troops, but now more than ever, talk of advance however, that before the New Year is very old there is a great probability of interesting developments in Western Flanders.

Goodridge's Rosina has arrived at Parnambuco.

Goodridge's Clementine arrived at Oporto, yesterday, after a passage of 30 days.

ADMIRALTY STATES NO BRITISH SHIPS WERE LOST IN RAID.

London, Dec. 19.—The Admiralty has issued a statement denying that any British warships were lost during the recent raid by a German squadron on the East Coast of England.

The statement adds that all German assertions to the contrary are untrue.

Contradictory Official Reports Issued By The Warring Nations

ALLIES WIN TRENCHES RUSSIANS MAKE GAINS GERMAN "VICTORIES"

Made Marked Advances Along the Belgian Front and Repulsed All Attacks

(British Official Bulletin)

Paris, Dec. 18.—The War Office this evening gave out an official communication as follows: "The day of December 17 was marked, as we said yesterday, by an advance on our part in Belgium where every counter attack undertaken by the enemy failed."

In the region of Arras, a vigorous offensive made us masters of several trenches. These are located at Auchy, Le Basse, St. Laurent and Blangy.

At this last-mentioned place we occupied on a front more than one kilometre long almost all the Tracy Le Val.

On the Aisne and in Champagne our heavy artillery won distinct advantages.

In the Argonne the Germans blew up one of our trenches to the north of Tour-de-Paris and endeavored to move out from their position with three battalions of troops.

This infantry attack, as well as the one they undertook at Hubert, was repulsed.

To the east of the Meuse and in the Vosges there is nothing to report.

Push Back All German Attacks and Make Advances in Russian Poland

(Russian Official Bulletin)

Petrograd, December 18.—On the left bank of the Vistula an almost complete lull on nearly all the front has been replaced by attacks made by the enemy in the course of the last few days. All these attacks have been repulsed.

In connection with the advance of part of our troops towards the Bura River (Russian Poland), and in view of the fact that the Austrians are continually receiving reinforcements in the Carpathians, we have thought fit to rearrange the positions of some of our armies.

We checked the offensive yesterday, in Western Galicia.

On the front between Sanonk and Lisso we succeeded in our offensive. In this region we have captured three thousand prisoners and several guns and quick-firers.

S.S. Donavista arrived at 1 p.m.

Schr. Jessie M. Capt. Keeping, has arrived from Burin with 1300 qtls. fish for Bishop & Sons.

In the Clashes That Resulted From the Offensive of the Allies East and West

(German Official Bulletin)

Berlin, Dec. 18.—The German War office this afternoon gave out the following communication—"Fighting at Nieuport continues favorable. No decision is yet reached."

"French attacks between LaBasse and Arras on both sides of the river Somme have resulted in failure with severe losses to the enemy."

On the Somme the French lost 1200 men prisoners, 1800 dead and wounded. Our lost were under 200. In Argonne forest our successful attacks resulted in the capture of some 750 prisoners in addition to war material.

There have been no important developments elsewhere on the western front.

On frontiers east and west of Prussia, the situation is unchanged.

In Poland we continue to pursue the retreating enemy.

S.S. Rosalind leaves Halifax tonight for St. John's.

S.S. Carthaginian arrived at Halifax at 8 a.m.

Belgians Capture German Trenches At Oastkerke In Fourth Bayonet Attack

London, Dec. 19.—The Daily Chronicle prints the following despatch which is dated "Northern France, Friday."

A week of successes for the Allies has followed the resumption of hostilities in France and Flanders. Roulers has been captured after four fierce assaults on German trenches outside the town.

The inundations between Dixmude and Nieuport have been surrounded by Allied troops who have pushed northward from Dixmude and southward from Nieuport and have joined forces on the north-eastern side of the floods.

Repeated bayonet attacks have been pushed home at Lombartzyde with the result that our patrols have advanced to Middlekerke, a few kilometres from Ostend.

Fighting on the borders of the flooded area was particularly furious.

The Belgians advanced toward the entrenched positions of the Germans at Oastkerke but were driven back by the well-posted mitrailleuses of the enemy three times. They rallied to the charge and three times they were repulsed. The fourth assault, however, crowned the gallantry of the Belgians with success and the trenches were carried at the point of the bayonet.

So interwoven were the Allied and German trenches in this region that the defeat of the enemy at Oastkerke was responsible for the capture of nearly 1,000 German prisoners.

For a time the reckless dash of two armoured auto-cars into the Belgian lines nearly saved the situation for the enemy. The cars fired with deadly effect until they were compelled to withdraw.

The wounded are beginning to arrive at the base hospitals. German casualties are reported to be very heavy.

AUSTRIA WANTS TO MAKE PEACE WITH RUSSIA

Swiss Report Says She Asked Russia For Terms and Got Some Hard Ones stipulated

Berne, Dec. 15.—Austria has made a tentative peace proposal to Russia, but exchanges between the two Governments, in which Russia made known the terms that would be demanded, were without result, says a Swiss report to-day.

In replying to the proposal of Austria, Russia indicated that severe demands will be made when peace is ultimately discussed. The terms offered to Austria during the negotiations which just failed, included:

The surrender of Galicia to Poland; these two Provinces to form a kingdom under Russian sovereignty.

The surrender of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Servia and Montenegro.

The withdrawal from the Alliance with Germany.

The granting of a new constitution to Austro-Hungary, dividing it into federal states.

The granting of autonomy to Bohemia.

UNION JACK NOW FLIES OVER EGYPT

And a British Nominee Has Assumed Title of Sultan of Egypt, British Protectorate

BRITISH FLAG WAS HOISTED OVER EGYPT.

Cairo, Dec. 17.—A British protectorate was formally proclaimed throughout Egypt to-day.

In all the garrison towns a salute of one hundred and one guns was fired and the Union Jack hoisted.

London, Dec. 18.—It is officially announced that Prince Hussein Kemal has been appointed to succeed as Khedive of Egypt Abbas Hilmi. Prince Hussein Kemal will take the title of Sultan. He is an uncle of Abbas Hilmi.

The Official Press Bureau in its announcement of the appointment says: "Prince Hussein Kemal Pasha, the oldest living Prince of Mahomet Ali, has accepted the rank of Sultan of Egypt."

BRITISH MAKE TRENCHES SNUG FOR THE WINTER

In Some of the Trenches the Men Listen Over Phone to Gramophone Concert 8 Miles Away

London, Dec. 15.—British soldiers are now giving a great deal of time toward making their trenches comfortable for the winter.

A report from Colonel Swinton, the British eye-witness at the front, dated December 10, and issued by the war bureau to-day, tells of this phase of the fighting. "Much time has been spent recently by raiming, heating, and generally improving conditions in the trenches in preparation for the winter campaign. As an instance of the up-to-dateness of the men is shown by the fact that in some of the front trenches soldiers heard by telephone gramophone concerts eight miles distant."

Colonel Swinton says that the Germans used rifle grenades in making attacks for the first time since December 7, but our artillery quickly winks our aviators have made valuable stopped the innovation. He added: "During the past four days the weather has been very wet, and despite high reconnoissances."

you have been chosen as the Prince of the family of Mohamet Ali most worthy to occupy the Khedive's position with the title of Sultan of Egypt. "I give you assurance that Great Britain will accept the fullest responsibility for defence of the territories under you against all aggression."

Former Thriving Towns Are Now Desolate Wastes In The North Of France

Paris, Dec. 14.—Telegraphing to the Figaro, G. H. Perris says: During the battle of the Marne I described the havoc wrought among the thriving little communities on the Brie Plateau, and from there to Soissons: Since then I have seen much of what Genl. Sherman called "the Hell of war," but nothing quite like the ravaged region in Southern Champagne.

Proceeding from Bra-le-Duc to Vitry we had already passed through several villages of which only piles of brick and plaster remained (name apparently erased by censor) is a spectacle no man could lightly pass by. Its name is now tragically appropriate. It is destroyed from end to end. Out of about one hundred houses only one remains partly habitable. I climbed about piles of broken stone and brick, examined pieces of twisted iron, bedsteads, tools, kitchen things and scattered fragments of pottery. The wood work has disappeared, save for a few blackened bones of rafter tables and chairs.

Church Fared Better. The beautiful church had better borne the torture by fire. The spire is broken, the timbers of the roof are gone, two big bells lie upon a heap of debris and the hole in one of the walls shows where a shell broke through during a battle. Outside the village a dozen human beings are still living in the wilderness, most of them in yawning holes which were once cellars of their homes. Just outside the hamlet they show a deep, covered trench from which the Crown Prince is supposed to have watched the battle.

At Vitry we visited Brabant le Ros. It suffered less, but we heard grievous tales, including a woman of sixty-five, now supposed to be kept prisoners at Sedan, and of the thefts of the Passants' few pieces of silver-plate and jewelry. The market town of Revinay seems to have been scientifically destroyed. One wonders how so many solid stone houses could have been broken up. The central street represents an extraordinary scene of devastation. Nothing remains except parts of the lower walls. The town hall, a graceful building of the classic French style, has about half its outer fabric standing. The church, which is of historic interest, is roofless and much injured within.

Only Few Left. The few inhabitants who remain of the original two kinds of incendiary material, one being an explosive. The town, they say, was first pillaged and then fired. Mayor Gasotte says motor cars brought up tins of kerosene and packets of some inflammable substance. The German soldiers placed this stuff along the houses and at a signal threw in hand grenades.

"The cellars," he said "had already been emptied and pianos and valuable furniture had been placed on motor wagons to be taken to Germany."

A boy of fifteen was shot on suspicion of having communicated information to the French. Three elderly citizens were taken away as hostages and nothing is known of their fate.

The Crown Prince entered the town, but was not content with the rooms prepared and went to a neighboring country house.

Possibly the exploits of a French aviator, who dropped a bomb on Revinay on the second day of the German occupation, killing eleven soldiers and thirty-five horses, may have had something to do with the destruction of the town.

Semaize les Bains was a pleasant town of four thousand inhabitants, with a large sugar refinery, and a molished from end to end by fire. Of five hundred houses only two or three are now standing. But for a few chimneys and pieces of wall it is a rubbish heap. A few townfolk still inhabit their cellars. You see them—women, children and old men—carrying home large truck loads of bread, or wheeling barrows of fire wood. Two enterprising tradesmen have built shanties, where they sell a few necessities of life. The church is roofless and gutted. A little way from it is the cure's house, also burned out.

France Assumes Protectorship Over Morocco

Britain Agrees to This Step—People Are Assured Religious Freedom

London, Dec. 19.—Great Britain has recognized a French Protectorate over Morocco with a French President-General who exercises civil and military powers under Sovereignty of a Sultan at his head.

The treaty proclaims the religious freedom of the people and gives France the right, for the maintenance of order, to enter into military occupation of any points.

GERMAN AIRMEN WERE CAPTURED

London, Dec. 19.—A Copenhagen despatch reports that a German aeroplane has been stranded on the Danish Isle of Fano, in the North Sea, off the west coast of Jutland.

The aviator, an officer and a soldier, were arrested and will be interned in Denmark.

CASUALTIES IN BRITISH TOWNS. TOTAL OVER 300.

London, Dec. 18.—Casualties in the German raid are approximately as follows:—Hartlepool 82 killed, 250 wounded, Scarborough seven killed, three wounded, Whitby, three killed, two wounded. Total casualties, 357.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Fair today. Sunday, fresh to strong southerly winds; snow or rain by night.

Sleighs and Skates advertisement for G. Knowling, listing various sleigh and skate models and prices.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Advertisement for G. Knowling window glass, stating "Just Received a Large Shipment" and listing various sizes.