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Heavy Fighting Reported North West of Verdun

Huns Are Aggressors Around Bois des Buttes and North of the Aisne—Hun Infantry Attacks Over a Front of Three Miles Are Repulsed by French With Heavy Losses to Enemy—British Break up Opposition of Senussi Tribesmen in Western Egypt—Italians Are Pressing Austrians and Have Stormed Several Positions Held by Them

LONDON, Mar. 15.—Extremely heavy infantry fighting has taken place north-west of Verdun, on the outskirts of Bois des Buttes, and to the north of the Aisne, with the Germans in both regions the aggressors. Elsewhere along the line artillery duels of great proportions are under way. In the sector between Bethancourt and Cumières, north-west of Verdun, intense artillery bombardments by the Germans was followed by an infantry attack, but over the entire front of three miles it was repulsed by the French with serious losses, except between Bethancourt and Le Mort Homme, where the Germans gained a footing at two points in the French trenches. The Germans, three times to the north of the Aisne threw their troops against French positions north-west of Bois des Buttes, but none of these attacks proved successful. In the Forest of Argonne, French guns effectively shelled German positions north and east of Verdun. Artillery duels continue to the north of St. Mihiel in Lorraine, and in the Vosges Mountains guns on both sides being active. A large number of fights in the air have taken place around Verdun, in these four German aircraft have been brought down. French aviators again have bombarded the station of Briulles, behind the German lines, north of Verdun.

The British evidently breaking up the opposition of the Senussi tribesmen, led by Turkish officers, in Western Egypt. An official report received from Major General Peyton, Commander of the British forces, reports that the occupation of Soltum, on the Egyptian-Tripoli frontier, is imminent, that Sheikh Harun has surrendered and is in the British camp and that the headmen of the Aulad Ali tribe are begging for peace.

The Russians are still harassing the Turks on the Caucasus front and have made further progress against the Teutons in East Galicia. They entered a German trench in the region of Riga, killed the occupants and returned to their own positions without suffering any loss.

The Italians are keeping up their strong infantry offensive begun several days ago on the Isonzo front, especially fierce attacks have been made around San Martino. Here, Rome says, the Italians captured Rante del Croviglio, a pivot of the Austrian defences, and in the same region stormed two other places and seized Austrian trenches. Vienna, on the other hand, declared that near San Martino, the Italians seven times attempted to storm the Austrian positions, but were repulsed with heavy casualties. The Austrian Embassy at Berlin accuses an Entente Allied submarine with having attempted in the Adriatic Sea, off the coast of Dalmatia, to torpedo without warning two Austrian passenger steamers. The steamers escaped only by skillful manoeuvring.

Allies to Hold a Conference At Rome

Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, Will be British Representative

LONDON, Mar. 15.—A "Post" article says a conference of representatives of the Entente Allies is to be held soon in Rome and that Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, will probably be the British representative.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

Huns Repulsed By French at N.W. Verdun

Hun Infantry Fiercely Attack French Positions Between Bethancourt and Cumières—Are Repulsed With Serious Losses.

PARIS, Mar. 15.—The violence of the German bombardment of French positions between Bethancourt and Cumières, north-west of Verdun redoubled to-day after which German infantry fiercely attacked this sector. They were repulsed along the whole front with serious losses, according to an official statement issued to-night by the French War Office. The Germans, however succeeded in setting foot in French trenches at two points between Bethancourt and Le Mort Homme.

Grey Defends The Action Of Portugal

Confirms Statement That Britain Urged Portugal to Requisition German Ships—Portugal is Welcomed as an Ally Says Grey

LONDON, Mar. 15.—Speaking on behalf of Premier Asquith, who was absent on account of illness, Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, explained to the Commons to-day the entry of Portugal into the war. He confirmed the statement that the British Government had urged Portugal to requisition German ships and said Portugal promised eventually to indemnify the owners. He argued the right in emergency to requisition property of all individuals and convert it to public use was a right inherent of every foreign State and could not be challenged by any foreign Power. Portugal was not a neutral State in the narrow sense of the term. At the outbreak of war Portugal promised that under no circumstances would she disregard her ancient alliance with Great Britain, and she had remained faithful to the obligations of that alliance.

The action of Portugal, continued Sir Edward, would injure no third party, because she had promised compensation, but Germany saw fit to precipitate events and to declare war thus altering the whole position with regard to payment or compensation. It must be observed, said Sir Edward, that Germany, who had accused Portugal of a breach of neutrality, had herself, in October and December, 1914, raided the Portuguese colony of Angola and tried to stir up rebellion in Portuguese East Africa.

In conclusion, Sir Edward said Portugal would be welcomed by the Allies as a gallant coadjutor in the great cause for which the war had been waged.

Roumanian People Cheer for Allies

LONDON, Mar. 15.—The "Daily Chronicle" prints the following from its special correspondent at Odessa.

Any doubt as to the attitude of the majority of the Roumanian people toward the belligerents who surround them on every side is daily further dispensed when the Verdun news appears in the papers. When the newsboys enter the streets the customers make a rush for the papers, and the smallest French gain is greeted vociferously with the singing of the "Marsallaise."

Is Appointed As Long's Successor

LONDON, Mar. 14.—Col. Atkins has been appointed to succeed Major General Long, who recently resigned, as Director of Supplies and Transports. Col. Atkins was Deputy Director and Acting Assistant-Director.

TURKISH

CONSTANTINOPLE, Mar. 15.—Two cruisers, on March 11th and 12th, shelled the environs of Teke and Durmu (Gallipoli Peninsula), the War Office announced to-day. They then withdrew.

On other fronts there is no change.

REFUSES DIVULGE FIGURES

Harold J. Tennant, Under Secretary of War, Introduces the Army Estimates in Commons Yesterday—Outlines Growth of the Army

LONDON, Mar. 14.—Introducing the Army Estimates in the Commons to-day, Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under Secretary for War, explaining that it was in the public interest to divulge figures, devoted his speech largely to a review of the enormous work involved in creating an Army, and with respect to the conflicting claims of the industrial and military fields. With regard to defence, he announced that it was proposed to apply the scale of defence agreed upon for London to the whole country. The provision for aeroplanes was satisfactory, but was ahead of the supply of engines and pilots. The shortage in engines had caused the Government great anxiety from the outset, when Great Britain was behind France and Germany, but now, he said, the majority of engines were of British manufacture. He mentioned that the purchase of horses of Canada and the United States would now cease, as Britain was able to provide for the wastage in horses, but mules would still be required from abroad. The average annual mortality of horses was well under ten per cent. He illustrated the tremendous developments of the Army, saying that whereas in peace time there were under two million articles of apparel, such as tunics and boots, similar articles had surged. Since the war began they had produced 117 million of these articles, while the stores purchased would have lasted 140 normal year.

With regard to men discharged from the Army on account of disorders aggravated, but not caused by service, the Government had decided to award them four-fifths of the ordinary pension, which would involve a heavy charge on public funds.

Tennant read a despatch from General Haig, Commanding the British forces in France and Belgium, testifying to the unfailing regularity and adequacy of all Army equipment and requirements, as a result of which the men were in good health with hearts full of confidence.

In dealing with sanitary measures, he said there was no anxiety respecting dysentery or any similar affection, either at Salonika or in Egypt. Successful measures have been adopted against asphyxiating gas attack.

Will Now Face Only Russians

Turks to Concentrate all Their Available Forces Against the Russians—Will Abandon the Egyptian and Mesopotamian Expeditions

PARIS, Mar. 15.—The Turkish Government has decided, in view of the danger of a Russian advance, to concentrate all the available forces of the Empire, against Russia, according to semi-official advices received in Athens from Constantinople. A majority of the troops in Thrace, on the Syrian coast, on the coast of the Sea of Marmora, and in Asia Minor, the correspondent adds, will be sent to Angora, Asia Minor.

Norge Barque Sunk in the North Sea

Entire Crew Lost—Supposed Vessel Struck a Mine.

LONDON, Mar. 15.—The Norwegian barque Dagmar, bound for Norway from America, has been lost in the North Sea with the entire crew, according to a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. It is supposed the Dagmar struck a mine. She sailed from Brunswick, Georgia on January 3rd for Trondhjem and since that date has not been reported.

Big Majority For "Dry"

WINNIPEG, Mar. 15.—The latest returns of Prohibition votes show the following figures: Dry, 49,325; wet, 25,848; dry majority, 23,477.

Funston Hot On Trail of Outlaw Band

Police Arrest Many Mexicans Known to be Friendly to Villa—Much Uneasiness is Felt by Americans at El Paso

EL PASO, Mar. 15.—Through the thick veil of censorship which has been established by General Funston, sufficient information leaked out to-day to confirm the belief that the advance guard of the first expeditionary force may start in pursuit of Villa in time to be measured by hours, while the main force may not start for two or three days. A strong undercurrent of excitement along the border was stirred to-day by the news that the Southern Pacific train had been fired upon at Belen, Texas, seventeen miles east of here. Conductor Rogers, in charge of the train, said several shots had been fired from the underbrush near the station.

Local police continue to arrest Mexicans who were supposed to be in communication with Villa forces. They are now in jail here. While there has been no disturbance of any kind here, that apprehension is felt by the American population is indicated by the heavy sale of guns and ammunition the last few days. Gun stores reported to-day they are almost completely sold out of ammunition.

Baron on the Move

LONDON, Mar. 14.—Baron von Dem Bussche Hadden-Hausen, special German Minister to Roumania, will leave Bucharest to-morrow for Berlin, says Reuter's Bucharest correspondent.

High Praise for U. S. Ambassador

James Gerard Arranges for Four American Doctors to Attend British Prisoners in Germany.

LONDON, Mar. 15.—The Foreign Office has been informed that James W. Gerard, American Ambassador to Germany, has arranged for the appointment of four American doctors to attend British prisoners in Germany.

The Foreign Office has transmitted to Sir Cecil Arthur Spring Rice, British Ambassador at Washington, an expression of the gratitude of the British Government for this act, which was at the suggestion of the American Embassy at Berlin.

The Appam Again

NORFOLK, Va., Mar. 14.—Capt. Harrison, British master of the steamer Appam, which was brought into Hampton Roads on Feb. 1st, as a German prize of war, has filed a libel against the Appam's cargo. A libel for possession of the steamer has already been filed. Because the cargo is of a perishable nature, the proceedings will be expedited.

The Egyptian and Mesopotamian expeditions are said to have been completely abandoned.

Airmen Want To Fight Not Sit at Home

Reported

LONDON, Mar. 15.—An Athens despatch says it is reported that B. Ismail Hakkı, President of Commerce Administration, has been appointed Turkish Minister of War.

Death in the Oats

LONDON, Mar. 15.—The War Office has issued an order directing cavalry officers to have examined carefully every bushel of oats used for the feeding of their horses. This order is explained by the morning newspapers as being due to the discovery that several consignments of oats from the United States contained little pieces of steel, shaped and colored like oats, and which if a horse swallowed, would be almost certain to kill the animal.

Wait and See

WASHINGTON, Mar. 15.—Officials still were without information early to-day that American troops had crossed the border in pursuit of Villa and his band of outlaws. Re-assuring advices from Mexico continue to reach the Government. These said that there had been no demonstration of ill-feeling against the United States because of the determination to hunt down Villa outlaws.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

MARCH 14, 1916 (Previously Reported)
739 Private WILLIS WHITE, Comfort Cove, N.D.B. Previously reported with jaundice, Cairo, Nov. 13. Now reported to be seriously ill at the 15th Stationary Hospital; Suez, March 11th.

J. R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

Two More Fires of Mysterious Origin

Renfrew Machinery Co., of Renfrew, Ont., is Destroyed—Coast Steamer Reached, Cotton Cargo on Fire.

RENFREW, Ont.—A fire of mysterious origin completely destroyed the plant of the Renfrew machinery Co. to-night. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. In addition there were several important shipments ready to be sent away. This is the second fire of a serious nature within a week. Last Tuesday the plant of the O'Brien Munitions Limited was destroyed, the loss being estimated at \$100,000.

PORTLAND, Maine.—The Coastwise freight steamer Herman Winter was badly damaged to-night by fire of a mysterious origin among 800 bales of cotton in her hold. She was beached south of the Portland shore. The ship had been delayed for several days by strike freight handlers.

High Honour for Premier Borden

Is Decorated With Insignia of Grand Gordon Order of Leopold For His Sympathy for Belgium.

OTTAWA, March 15.—M. Gorr, Consul General for Belgium, to-day handed to Sir Robert Borden, the insignia of the Grand Cordon Order of Leopold which has been conferred upon the Prime Minister for his and the Dominion's sympathy generally towards Belgium. This decoration is the highest distinction order of Leopold, which ranks first among the Belgian national orders, and was instituted by the first sovereign of independent Belgium in 1832.

So Declares Noel Pemberton Billings Who Makes an Impression on the House in his Maiden Speech—He Demanded all Existing Aircraft be Used to Raiding Hostile Countries—Says Britain Has the Planes, Pilots and Bombs—The Country he Says Demands That all Material be Used and That Airmen are Anxious to Fight

LONDON, March 15.—Noel Pemberton Billings, the new member of Parliament, who secured his seat over the united forces of the Coalition Government on a platform demanding a sweeping change with air defences of England made an impression on the House to-day in his maiden speech, in which he demanded all existing aircraft should be used for raids over hostile countries.

Billings said the British could not assert the British possessed a hundred times more aeroplane pilots than at the beginning of the war, and that the machines were capable of carrying from four to ten times greater quantities of explosives.

If Harold J. Tennant, Under Secretary of State for War, believed the British had an insufficient number of pilots, Billings said, he could introduce him to a hundred such men within twenty-four hours; and, if Tennant said, the British did not possess sufficient machines he would lead him to them by hand. If the Under Secretary said the British had not sufficient bombs the member offered with the permission of the speaker to place them on the table of the House.

Billings concluded with the assertion that the country is demanding existing material to be used and that airmen were pleading to be sent out to fight instead of sitting at home to think.

Billings was a temporary flight lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service when he resigned to stand for Parliament in the issue of better protection against zeppelin raids. He was elected for East Hertfordshire by majority of 1931 over the coalition candidate, Brodie Henderson.

Grave Dissatisfaction Through-out Britain Over Enlistment

Trouble is So Acute That Government is Considering a Change of Policy—Kitchener and Derby to Speak in Lords.

LONDON, Mar. 15.—The unexpectedly early calls on married men to join the army have created such grave dissatisfaction throughout the country that the Government is considering a change of policy. Earl Kitchener and the Earl of Derby will speak in the House of Lords to-day, and probably will make important statements.

It seems quite certain that the strong feeling of the country as to the unfairness of the existing system of recruiting has compelled the Government to reconsider its position, but whether the revised policy looks in the direction of application of compulsion to married and single men alike is still unknown.

Violent Cannonading West of the Meuse

PARIS, Mar. 14.—Last night saw a continuance of artillery activity on the Verdun front. West of the Meuse cannonading was fairly violent and a reconnaissance on the part of the Germans in the wood of Haudremont was checked by the French, according to an official announcement, made in Paris this afternoon.

There was severe cannonading near Vaux and also in the Woevre district. In the Wood of LePretra, a German detachment, advancing on a French trench was driven back.