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GAIN PROVES USELESS

Germans Advance But Are Driven Back to Their Base.

Almost the Entire Western Battlefront is the Scene of Terrific Battles Without Marked Advantage Being Reported in the Bulletins—Alsace Conflict Is Only In Its Initial Stages Thus Far.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—The Germans were checked after a temporary gain and pressed back until the fighting was carried up to their own base in upper Alsace yesterday, according to the French War Office statement received from Paris last night. Bitter fighting is progressing in front of Neuport, in Belgium, the forest battle in the Argonne rages with undiminished fury, and terrific artillery duels have been fought all along the line, according to reports from the western front.

The battle in Alsace has only begun. Severe fighting is likely to continue for some time. The Germans are still bringing up reinforcements in the hope of checking the almost uninterrupted series of small French successes.

Where the French established themselves on the eastside of Steinbach after the memorable victory in the fight for that town, the Germans Saturday advanced from their infantry base at Uffholtz in an attack which was preceded by a violent bombardment. So strong were the invaders and so furious the character of their assault that they carried the advanced positions of the French. The dislodged Frenchmen rallied to the counter-attack, and fell upon the Germans with vigor, routing them from their newly-gained trench and forcing them back. Last night's communication states that the French now have carried the fighting into the region of Uffholtz, which is about two miles to the east of Steinbach.

The German artillery is bombarding Thann, where the French have removed all traces of the 40-year German occupation. The devastating ruin of the German 8-inch shells has set the town partially on fire.

The following official communication was issued by the War Office Sunday night:

"There has been an intense bombardment by the Germans in the region to the north of Zillebeke (Flanders), and lively rifle firing near the Chateau d'Honnin, but no infantry attacks. Some shells have fallen on Arras and firing occurred to the north of the town.

"In the region of Albert the enemy has discharged a number of bombs against Laboisselle, but our artillery forced him to cease this attack.

"Active skirmishing has occurred near Carnoy.

"In the Argonne, fighting in the region of Four-de-Paris has come to an end. We have conserved all our positions except about 50 metres of a trench, which was destroyed by the heavy bombs of the enemy.

"In Alsace the struggle is in progress to-day in the region of Uffholtz, and in that of Hartmann-Wellerkopf, where we are in contact with the wire entanglements established by the Germans, but as yet there is no news of the operations of the day."

"In the Argonne in the region of St. Hubert and Fontaine Madame an infantry engagement continued in a portion of an advance trench, which has been taken, lost and retaken several times during 48 hours.

"Between Metz and the Vosges a thick fog has prevented operations.

"In Alsace in the region of Hartmann-Wellerkopf we have, in spite of the extreme difficulty of the ground made progress on our right. Near Steinbach an attack of the enemy directed from an Uffholtz and prepared for by a violent bombardment made him for a short time master of one of our advance trenches, which has been retaken by a vigorous counter-attack."

The following communication was issued by the War Office Saturday night:

"In the Argonne the fighting continued all night at Fontaine Madame and St. Hubert. All the attempts of the enemy were repulsed, and the engagement was resumed this morning."

British Casualties Heavy.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—There has been given out in London an officers' casualty list, covering the period between Dec. 30 and Jan. 12, which shows that the British lost a total of 251 men. Of these 92 were killed and 133 wounded. Thirty-two were reported missing. Added to the previous totals, the records of the last fortnight give officers killed 1,256, wounded 2,416, and missing 662, or a total casualty list in officers since the beginning of the war of 4,344 men.

Steamer Shortage Causes Delay.

OTTAWA, Jan. 25.—The Postoffice Department has investigated complaints about the delays in transshipment of mails for the Canadians at Salisbury Plain, and it states that nothing has been left undone to expedite that forwarding of these mails. The delays in several cases investigated were due to the absence of mid-week mail steamers from either Halifax or New York because the British Admiralty has requisitioned so many steamers.

Woman Slain; Husband Arrested.

OTTAWA, Jan. 25.—Noe Piche, a laborer, residing with his wife in Ottawa East was arrested yesterday following the discovery of the woman dead body in their home.

It bore a number of severe wounds, and indications point to murder, probably in a fight. The woman had been dead several hours when a neighbor arrived in response to a call from Piche, who admits he was with her when she died, but refuses to make any further statement.

NEWS TOPICS OF WEEK

Important Events Which Have Occurred During this Week.

The Busy World's Happenings Carefully Compiled and Put Into Handy and Attractive Shape for the Readers of Our Paper—A Solid Hour's Enjoyment.

TUESDAY.

Bert Hume, 17 years old, employed at the London Foundry Co. plant, was instantly killed last night when he fell two storeys down an elevator shaft.

A despatch from Copenhagen says the Danish Government has decided to confiscate all wheat in Denmark of foreign origin to the value of \$500,000.

Emperor William has issued an order that the untrained German reservists no longer shall be permitted to serve as guards of honor at the funerals of prisoners of war.

The Kingston Service Utilities Commission will again ask Sir Adam Beck what offer he has to make Kingston for cheap power. The Board of Trade is pressing the matter.

There is no truth in the report published in the United States that the German steamship President was sunk off Havana last night by the British cruiser Berwick, says a Havana despatch.

Gen. Otter has announced that the principal detention camps for alien enemies in Ontario will be located at Petawawa, Kopskasing, between Hearst and Cochrane and Hurritau, on Lake Abitibi.

Restitution of the double subsidy paid by the Dominion Government to the Valley Railway of New Brunswick, is likely to be demanded as a result of the investigation conducted by R. A. Pringle, K.C.

Dr. Maloney, district medical officer of health for Brockville district, said yesterday that he would call on the provincial sanitary engineer, F. A. Dallyn of Toronto, to investigate the entire local typhoid situation and report his findings.

WEDNESDAY.

According to a despatch from Copenhagen The Berlin Tageblatt states that Rumania has purchased in the United States \$9,650,000 worth of war supplies.

A Venice despatch to The London News says that the official Giornale d'Italia fully confirms reports that Hungary is attempting to make peace apart from Austria.

The Kingston police commissioners will take up charges made against Chief of Police Wm. Baillie, by Ald. Hugh Nickle. He declared that the police system is very lax.

Geo. Froehlicher, the original "Friar Tuck" of the old Bostonian Opera Company, died suddenly yesterday in Burlington, Vt., of heart failure. He was 75 years of age.

Mrs. Robt. H. Sherard, the authoress, known as "Irene Osgood," was granted a divorce yesterday in London from her third husband, Robt. H. Sherard, on the ground of misconduct and cruelty.

A. W. Wheatley, general manager of the Canadian Locomotive Co., left Kingston yesterday for Europe. Mr. Wheatley will visit Russia in an attempt to secure contracts either for locomotives or shrapnel.

Total casualties, officially reported, among the Canadians at Salisbury Plain so far number 57, 20 of them due to meningitis. Nothing has yet been heard of the Patria's casualties aside from the death of Capt. Newton.

Sir William Osler, Regius Professor at Oxford has offered his services to aid the McGill Base Hospital, which with students and professors from McGill and nurses from local hospitals, will leave for the front in the spring.

THURSDAY.

A British Red Cross party left London for Montenegro yesterday in charge of Dorothea Clewov and Burnham, of Canada.

Henri C. Chapleau, a Montreal letter carrier, who pleaded guilty to theft from the mails, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Leet to four years in the penitentiary.

Word has been received by Mrs. E. Burns of Moose Jaw, of the death of her husband, while fighting at the front in France. Burns was a Socialist lecturer in Moose Jaw.

Lieut. C. E. Parker, King's Royal Rifles, formerly Sixth Duke of Connaught Rifles, Vancouver, is now reported as missing, and is believed to have been killed at the front.

At an executive meeting of the South Waterloo Reform Association, it was decided to contest the riding in the bye-election necessitated by the death of George Clare, M.P.

While on his way to a church held in the Orange Hall at North Bay, Archie Smith, a prominent Orangeman, and an engineer of the T. & N. O., dropped dead with heart failure.

The U. S. Senate yesterday, by a vote of 40 to 38, refused to suspend the rules and permit a vote on Senator Sheppard's Prohibition amendment to the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill.

Fourteen German soldiers were killed yesterday when a German military supply train fell into a canal between Hasselt and Turnhout in Belgium. The invaders had previously blown up the bridge themselves.

FRIDAY.

George Theibaud, a well-known French publicist, died yesterday. He was 80 years of age.

the steamer Karluk, which carried the Stefansson expedition to the Arctic, expressed the belief yesterday that the eight missing explorers of the expedition perished long ago.

Sister Margaret Dorin, for 41 years a faithful religious worker at the Hotel Dieu, died yesterday morning, after a lingering illness. For many years she had been mother superior at that institution, but of late years was mistress of novices.

The coroner's jury at St. Catharines investigating the death of Pte. Charles Vanduser of the 77th Regiment, on guard on the Welland Canal, who was found on the G. T. R. track on the morning of Jan. 14 yesterday afternoon returned a verdict of accidental death.

SATURDAY.

The Toronto Terminals Railway Co. will apply to Parliament for power to increase the limit of the bonding powers of the company, and to acquire lands in Toronto for freight and other facilities.

A despatch from Berlin says that Prince Joachim, the youngest son of Emperor William, has sufficiently recovered from his recent attack of dysentery and influenza to permit his going to Baden-Baden for a rest.

The Great Lakes Protective Association, in annual session yesterday, decided not to increase its share of insurance risk upon vessels owned by members of the association, unless future developments made such action necessary.

Theodore Spangler, of Carlisle, was arrested yesterday in Washington when he stopped a policeman and said: "I want to see President Wilson. A clique in Carlisle is trying to force me because they have an idea that I am crazy."

A carload of liquor was seized in a special raid of the provincial license authorities in Welland on Thursday. Fifty-two charges were laid. The action followed suspicions that the soldiers guarding the canal were getting too much liquor.

The House of Bishops of the Province of Ontario, after consideration of the question relating to the resignation of Bishop Thornloe of the See of Algoma, on his election to the See of Ottawa, resolved not to accept Bishop Thornloe's resignation.

SUNDAY.

The Paris Temps denies the report that the finance ministers of Russia, England and France met in Paris yesterday to consider a joint loan of \$3,000,000,000.

The death is reported from New Dublin of John B. Barry, for many years a leading farmer of his district. He was for 16 years clerk of the Township of Elizabethtown.

Official convention advice received yesterday in Junez, Mexico, says Pueblo, capital of the state of the same name, was taken by convention forces in a battle late Friday.

Gen. Joffre has been decorated with the Cross of St. George by Maj.-Gen. Prince Felix Youssouff, of Emperor Nicholas, who came to France to confer the decoration.

Emil Nerlich, a member of the firm of Nerlich & Co., Toronto, importers of fancy goods, was arrested Saturday on a charge of assisting an alien enemy of His Majesty out of Canada.

At a meeting of the ratepayers of North Dumfries in Galt Saturday, a motion was passed authorizing the council to give three-quarters of a mill on the tax rate to the patriotic and Belgian relief funds.

Rev. Wm. Fleming, aged 87, Anglican clergyman, died in Belleville on Saturday, after being ill for some time. He was the oldest minister in the diocese of Ontario. He was engaged in the ministry for upwards of half a century.

BIGGEST BATTLE YET.

Naval Action Off Coast Must Have Been a Terrific One.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—The Daily News naval experts say: "Yesterday's fight by far the biggest of the war, and its results, even if none of the enemy's light craft was accounted for, were certainly not the least important. Once again the battle cruiser as a type has distinguished itself and with it Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, who thus for the second time, has made a magnificent use of the splendid vessels under his command.

The fight must have been a terrific one, owing to the enormous size, power and speed of the vessels engaged. No action between Dreadnoughts has even been fought before, and while we may regret that our success, measured by ships sunk, is not greater, it must be admitted that the full story is not yet available, what happened would seem to be fairly obvious. The Germans were coming over with the intention, presumably, of bombarding more undefended towns. As soon as they sighted a force capable of giving them battle they made off. The Blucher was three knots slower than her consort, and instead of starting to protect her, the bigger vessel made off and left her to her fate. Strictly speaking, it is the proper thing to do, for had the Derfflinger, Seydlitz and Moltke remained to help her they would most assuredly have shared her fate.

As it was, the sacrifice of the Blucher probably saved them, allowing them to make off while the British ships were settling her account. But, even if this was left to the slower British ships, while the 28-knotters kept up the pursuit of others, the result would probably have been the same, since there was little to choose between the speed of the first three ships on either of the lists. Nearly four hours elapsed before the Blucher was accounted for. It may at first seem an unduly long interval, but it represents a distance of less than thirteen miles.

Well Off Belgians Begging.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 25.—A Belgian refugee from Antwerp who has made his way across the frontier into Holland declares that the situation in Antwerp is rapidly growing worse. The supply of provisions is inadequate, and many inhabitants of the city who were formerly well-to-do are daily begging in the streets.

Will Stay In Berlin.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 25.—A private despatch from Berlin declares Gen. von Hohenborn, who succeeded Von Falkenhayn as German Minister of War, will not go to either front but will remain in Berlin. Lt.-Gen. von Wandel will be in command in the western theatre.

CRUISER BLUCHER SUNK

Big German Warship Was Leading Raid on British Coast.

Attempt to Repeat Harlepool Bombardment Is Nipped in the Bud by Rear-Admiral Beatty and Strong Patrolling Squadron and Ends In Inglorious Flight of Enemy—Two Other German Cruisers Disabled.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—An attempt by a German cruiser squadron to repeat the attack recently made on Scarborough, the Harlepool and other British coast towns was frustrated yesterday by the British patrolling squadron, and in a running fight the German armored cruiser Blucher was sunk and two German battle cruisers were seriously damaged.

The British ships suffered only slight injury, and so far as known only 123 of the Blucher's crew of 885 were saved.

A battle also occurred between the light cruisers and destroyers accompanying the bigger ships, but the result of this engagement has not yet reached the Admiralty.

The British were superior in ships engaged, weight of armament and speed, and the flight of the German ships into the mine and submarine-infested field possibly saved them from further losses.

The Blucher as a cruiser of 15,000 tons displacement, and although commissioned in 1908 was completely re-rigged last year. She was not classed as a battle cruiser but was in the first class to those formidable fighters. With her were the Derfflinger, Germany's latest battle cruiser, which had just left the builder's hands, and the battle cruisers Seydlitz and Moltke, the latter a sister ship of the Cochen, formerly of the German but now of the Turkish fleet, which was recently reported damaged by the Russians in the Black Sea.

The British squadron, commanded by Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, who also was in command at the battle off Heligoland last August, consisted of the battle cruisers, Tiger, Lion, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable. The first three of these cruisers mount eight 13.5-inch guns each, and even the New Zealand and Indomitable carry 12-inch guns, which are equal to those of the Derfflinger, the only one of the German ships that had better than 11-inch guns.

The official report issued by the press bureau gives the following account of the engagement:

"Early this morning a British patrolling squadron of battle cruisers and light cruisers, under Admiral Sir David Beatty, with a destroyer flotilla under Commander Tyrwhitt, sighted four German battle cruisers and several light cruisers and a number of destroyers, steering westward and apparently making for the English coast.

"The enemy at once made for home at high speed. They were at once pursued, and at about 9.30 a.m. action was joined between the battle cruisers Tiger, Lion, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable on the one hand, and the Derfflinger, Seydlitz, Moltke and Blucher on the other. A well-contested running fight ensued. Shortly after one o'clock the Blucher, which had previously fallen out of line, capsized and sank.

"Admiral Beatty reports that two other battle cruisers were seriously damaged. They were, however, able to continue their flight and reached an area where dangers from German submarines and mines prevented further pursuit.

"No British ships have been lost and our casualties in personnel as at present reported are slight, the Lion, which led the line, having only 11 wounded and no killed.

"One hundred and twenty-three survivors have been rescued from the Blucher's crew of 885, and it is possible that others have been saved by some of our destroyers. No reports of any destroyer or light cruiser fighting have yet been received at the Admiralty, though some have apparently taken place.

"Their lordships have expressed their satisfaction to Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty."

Commodore Reginald Y. Tyrwhitt, who also took part in the battle off Heligoland, commanded the light cruisers and destroyers which accompanied Vice-Admiral Beatty's battle cruisers.

The Germans were observed some time after dawn proceeding in the direction of the British coast. When they sighted the superior British fleet they turned and made at full speed for home waters, and it was only after a stern chase that the faster British ships got within range of them. For more than four hours the running battle lasted, the firing being plainly heard in North Holland, where it was judged the fight took place north of the Islands of Ameland and Schiermonnikoog.

The Blucher which was slower than the other German cruisers, fell behind and succumbed to the heavier guns of the Lion, which was leading the British squadron. The other German ships got within the mine and submarine area, two of them in a badly damaged condition and it was dangerous for the big British battle cruisers to follow.

The fact that only 11 men were wounded aboard the Lion, which led the line, indicates that the British casualties were light. It is possible that more of the Blucher's crew were picked up by the British destroyers. The Blucher, the largest and the newest of all armored vessels yet lost in the war, was built in the Kiel dockyard.