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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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Half a Million Men Are Engaged in the Battle of Verdun. Another P. & O. Liner Sunk---Austro-Huns Occupy Durazzo.

The Battle of Verdun Is Kept Up With Same Fury as Opening Days

explosions splitting the vessel apart. The Matoja went down off Dover with a loss of life estimated as high as 147. The loss on the Trignao is estimated at 28. In addition the British steamer Fastnet has been sunk in the Mediterranean by a submarine.

Germany has instructed her Ambassador at Washington to inform the American Government that assurances regarding her future conduct of submarine warfare will apply only to merchantmen of a peaceful character. From Berlin no authoritative statement can be obtained regarding the date on which Germany's announced intention to sink all armed merchantmen without warning will become operative, although it is reported in German newspapers that the previously announced date of March 1st will be adhered to.

Huns Launch Fierce Attack On Verdun

PARIS, Feb. 28.—The most recent information here depicts the battle of Verdun as raging without the slightest let up, the Germans launching frenzied attacks against the French lines backed up by the outer forts without regard for their sacrifices. The Temps states that from most reliable sources it is learned that the Kaiser is prepared to sacrifice at least two hundred thousand of his best troops in order to take the French stronghold.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE MUCH BOOTY AND PRISONERS

PETROGRAD, Feb. 28.—The capture of 235 officers, 12,753 men, 322 guns in operations about Erzerum is announced in an official statement from the Russian war office to-day. "The pursuit of the Turkish army continues. The Russians occupied the village of Aschkata, 50 miles west of Erzerum on the road to Trebizond.

AMERICAN NURSES FOR BRITISH FRONT

LONDON, Feb. 28.—33 nurses, most of them from Mercy Hospital of Chicago, left London to-day for the British front. They have been detailed for service for six months in field hospitals. The nurses have been at London for nearly two weeks gathering their equipment.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The British official statement issued last night reads: "Last night we sprang two mines in the neighbourhood of Loos with satisfactory results."

"This morning an enemy raid on our trenches south-east of Maricourt was repulsed. There has been artillery activity by both sides about Ypres during the day."

LONDON, Feb. 28.—A British official regarding the campaign in Flanders reads: "Last night we repulsed a small attack on our trenches north of the Ypres-Comines Canal. To-day artillery on both sides was active about Hulloch, Armentieres and Ypres."

FRENCH

PARIS, Feb. 28.—An official statement issued by the War Office to-night says that a sanguinary struggle which has been going on around Fort Douaumont, which is described as an advance element in the old defensive organization of the fortress of Verdun and declares the position captured this morning by the Germans was reached again by the French troops, who advanced beyond that point and have resisted all attempts to drive them back.

PARIS, Feb. 28.—

Except around Fort Douaumont, the French War Office reports some abatement in the German attacks north of Verdun. To east and west of the Douaumont, the French troops are closely pressing the German detachment, which were able to gain a footing in those sections and which the War Office reports are maintaining themselves with difficulty.

PARIS (official), Feb. 28.—

Between Soissons and Rheims we opened up a destructive fire on the German works situated opposite Venizel and east of Troyon. In the district north of Verdun the fierce engagements of the last few days have somewhat slackened during the day, except between Douaumont Height and a hill situated north of Voux Village, where a strong German attack was made against our eastern and western positions of Douaumont Height. This attack was repulsed and the slopes of the hills are covered with German corpses. Our troops are gradually surrounding a few enemy troops, who had succeeded in gaining a footing, but who are holding on with the greatest difficulty.

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TURKS IN BAD WAY. ABOUT DONE

BUCHAREST, Feb. 28.—Definite information comes from Constantinople that the Turks are in a wretched position and cannot hold out for more than two months longer. There is much misery owing to famine and desertions are numerous. Enver Pasha has gone to Asia Minor.

ROUMANIA STILL SITS ON THE FENCE

BUCHAREST, via London, Feb. 27.—The chances of Roumania engaging in the European war on either side exist no longer, according to the leaders of responsible Roumanian parties, though it is not wholly out of the question that at the last minute Roumania may take part in the struggle to secure for herself territorial advantage at the expense of the belligerent whose defeat appears certain.

This is the quintessence of a statement to the Associated Press after a number of interviews with leaders of public thought and affairs. These Roumanians who in the past advocated action against the Central group, now say the military situation in Europe is uninviting to Roumania, while yet in some quarters it is still maintained that joining the Central Powers would be the best policy for this country.

Nobody here expects anything short of a military cataclysm will range Roumania on either side in the war.

CALM PREVAILS IN PARIS 171 Souls Lost When Steamer "Meteljoj" Sank

PARIS, Feb. 28.—In Paris an extraordinary calm prevails regarding the great battle now in progress around Verdun and there are no indications of tension or nervousness, but only sober confidence in the result prevails. The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attack should continue, for they argue the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts. The whole front from North Sea to Switzerland is on the alert. All leave of absence has been recalled. The French maximum effort has not yet been made. The total French losses in killed, wounded and prisoners since the Verdun battle began was authoritatively stated this evening to be less than the German official communication claims as prisoners.

BERLIN CLAIMS CAPTURE OF FORTS

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday, and is now firmly held by the Germans. The fort captured in front of Douaumont, lies four miles north-east of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun, and is situated just to the north of the railroad, running east from the city of Metz. Douaumont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. The forts of Sauville, Detavennes and St. Michel lie directly between the position conquered by the Germans and the City of Verdun.

The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has circled the greatest advance in the assault of the French positions. Douaumont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherto been the principal line of progress, being situated four miles east.

NOW DENIED

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—An official statement admits that the report of the capture of Champ Neuville, near Verdun, was erroneous.

RUSSIAN NEW COMMANDER OF NORTH EAST FRONT

PETROGRAD, Feb. 28.—General Alex. Kuropatkin has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armies.

"Motaja," Sister Ship of "Persia," Has Been Sunk

Big P. and O. Liner Has Been Sunk off Dover—Steamer Had 140 Passengers on Board—25 Bodies Have Been Landed at Dover

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Peninsula and Oriental Line steamer Motaja, 12,431 tons gross, has been sunk off Dover. It is believed that the vessel struck a mine. No details of the disaster have been received.

The Matoja was from Sydney, N.S.W. Dec. 24th, for London, and arrived at Marseilles on Jan. 11th. She is a sister ship of the Persia, which was torpedoed and sunk off the Island of Crete on December 30th last with the loss of 336 lives. The people from the sunk Matoja are now being picked up by rescuing boats, according to despatches from Dover to Lloyd's agency.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Vessels from Dover quickly reached the scene of the sinking Matoja. It is believed all the passengers and crew were rescued.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—About 25 bodies from the Matoja have been landed at Dover, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The steamer carried about 140 persons.

According to this information the British steamship Empress Fort William, 2181 tons gross, while attempting to rescue survivors from the Matoja also struck a mine and sank. The crew of this vessel were saved.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—It was officially announced to-night that the majority of the passengers of the Matoja were saved. Passengers of all classes totaled approximately 150, while the crew consisted of about 200, mostly Lascars.

NEW COMMANDER FOR RUSSIAN ARMIES

PETROGRAD, Feb. 27.—General Kuropatkin has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armies on the north-east front.

ROME, Feb. 27.—It is reported that bloody riots have broken out among the starving inhabitants of Montenegro, and that the castle of Crown Prince Danilo has been set on fire.

MORE STEAMERS SUNK

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Lloyd's announces the sinking of the British steamers Denaby, 2987 tons, and Summel of 531 tons.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The Wilson steamer Dido, 4,769 tons, was sunk Saturday morning. The captain and two of the crew were landed by a Belgian steamer. As the Dido carried a crew of 29 men, it is feared there has been a considerable loss of life. The British steamer Eastnet, 2,227 tons, has been sunk. The crew were saved.

ST. PIERRE BULLETINS

PARIS, Feb. 26.—According to latest information our troops are still resisting from the same positions in Beaumont district against repeated attacks of an enemy who is no longer reckoning his losses.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief our advance positions running from Ornes to Henneumont, held since last year, and used as an observation line, have been brought back and re-established near the Meuse heights, and that has been effected without enemy attack. Our artillery is answering shell for shell on both sides of the Meuse, to the German bombardment.

Midnight.—In Artois mine fighting we have exploded two on the west of the Lille road and another east of Neuville under a trench occupied by the enemy. In Champagne we have completely repulsed a German attack on a silted captured by us south of St. Marie Apy. The total number of prisoners is 340, of which 9 are officers and 36 sub-officers. Destructive fires on German works north of Villes sur Tourbes and in the region of Mont Tatu. In the region north of Verdun the bombardment continues without a stop east and west of the Meuse. To the attacks from the enemy our troops answer by counter-attacks very vigorously made on the divers points assailed. All the new attempts by Germans in the Champ Neuville region and on the Cote du Poivre, where we are solidly established, were repulsed.

Desperate fighting raged around Douaumont. The fort, which is an advanced element of ancient organization defending Verdun position, was captured this morning by the enemy, after several unsuccessful assaults, which cost him very heavy losses. The position was anew reached by our troops and even passed. All German attempts to drive us back again failed.

North-east of St. Mihiel our heavy artillery bombarded the enemy's depots near Vigneules. The Germans fired several big shells in the direction of Lunville and Nancy.

To-day in the Verdun region the Adjutant Navarre, on a monoplane, has brought down with his machine gun two German machines. This is the fifth German aeroplane brought down by that aviator. The enemy's machines fell in our lines. Two of the aviators were killed, two others were made prisoners. On the same day one of our air squadrons, composed of nine aeroplanes, threw 144 shells on Metz Sablon railway station. Another air squadron bombed the enemy's establishments of Chambrey, north-west of Pont a Mousson.

PARIS, Feb. 27.—A Lisbon despatch to the Paris Temps says that the requisitioning of German and Austrian ships has been extended to all these lying in the ports of Portugal and her colonies.

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Huns Lose 17,000 In Recent Fighting in Flanders

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—The Germans have gathered considerable number of troops in Flanders, artillery and reinforcements have been continuously arriving since December. According to the Echo Belge not less than 13 attacks were made recently by the Germans against the narrow front of Steenstraet Comines Canal, south of Hill No. 160. It is declared by this newspaper that only two attacks were of any success, but the German losses must have been heavy. It is estimated the killed and wounded total 17,000.

ALLIED AIRMEN ACTIVE

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—Allied airmen attacked and destroyed the railway station and damaged the tunnel at Bleyberg, according to the Echo Belge.

AT VERDUN

PARIS, Feb. 26.—"Serious, but not disquieting," is the common phrase which is issued to-day in official and Parliamentary circles regarding the progress of the Germans in their attack against Verdun.

CENTRAL POWERS HAVE OCCUPIED DURAZZO

VIENNA, Feb. 28.—Austro-Hungarian troops have occupied the Albanian port of Durazzo this morning, according to an official announcement issued to-day by the Austrian War Department.

WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS PREPARED

ROME, Feb. 28.—The evacuation of the Port of Durazzo in Albania is said by the Italian Press, to have been in accordance with plans long prepared, as it had served its purpose as a base for the rescuing of the remainder of the Serbian Army.

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SEALING CREWS

S.S. 'VIKING' and S.S. 'RANGER' will be signed

THURSDAY and FRIDAY.

Ships will sail noon Saturday, March 4th

Bowring Bros., Limited.

S.S. "BLOODHOUND," George, Whiteley, Master.

The Crew will sign on March 8th.

BAINE JOHNSTON & CO.

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