

## Furious Battle Continues West of the Meuse French are Still Holding Off German Attacks Flying School May be Started in Brantford

### FURTHER HUN ASSAULTS WEST OF MEUSE RIVER

East of the Meuse There is Only Artillery Fighting—Hun Losses Yesterday Were Very Heavy.

Neither Side Shows Any Lack of Valor so the Carnage Goes On.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, April 12.—Resumption of the German assault on the Verdun front, west of the Meuse was renewed this morning. Troops advanced on Caurettes wood, south of Cumiers, the war office announced, using flame projectors, but were repulsed.

East of the Meuse, in the Douaumont-Vaux sector, there was only artillery fighting. The war office says it has been confirmed that the German losses yesterday were very heavy.

While bringing up reinforcements to resume their attack on Le Mort Homme, the hill of the Dead Man, the Germans are trying to recover the ground regained by the French in Caillette woods and to the north between Douaumont and Vaux.

The French positions there describe an arc from a point south of Douaumont Fort to the center of the village of Vaux and the front is a little less than two miles in length.

For three days the only actions on the east bank of the Meuse have been centered there with the habitual preparation of heavily concentrated artillery fire with a finishing touch in the form of a couple of hours of heavy shelling with suffocating and tear provoking projectiles.

After a bombardment with high explosives lasting eight hours and the use of gas for another hour or two, the Germans would attack in two columns simultaneously on two flanks. There was no visible diminution in their courage and ardor; neither did the French show the slightest fatigue, and the consequence is that the unprecedented carnage of the battle of Verdun goes on.

Yesterday the whole front, beaten by gas projectiles, was overhung by a yellowish cloud of chlorine vapor which seemed to be suspended from the sky. When the cloud lifted the Germans bounded forward, indifferent to the thick death-dealing curtain of fire from the French artillery. Some of them got through it, but only to find that the French had abandoned the first line trenches to allow the gas cloud to dissipate.

German reinforcements were sent up to fortify the trenches, but before they reached the line the French came back with an irresistible counter-attack and in a few minutes drove out the Germans from the few points where they had penetrated the trenches.

### DUPONT POWDER COMPANY'S PLANT WAS DESTROYED TO-DAY

Plant Wrecked by Four Explosions and Three People Were Killed; Houses Wrecked Eight Miles Away.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Roanoke, Va., April 12.—The plant of the Dupont powder company, eight miles west of Bluefields, W. Va., was destroyed by an explosion this morning, according to telephone advices from Bluefields.

THREE KILLED  
Bluefield, W. Va., April 12.—Three persons were killed, a woman and two children when the plant of the Dupont Powder Company at Nemours, eight miles from here was

blown to pieces by four explosions early to-day. The force of the explosions was such that houses in the little village were wrecked and the sound could be plainly heard in this place. The dead children were buried in the ruins of their home, near the powder mill.

The principal damage was done by the first explosion which is said to have completely destroyed the building.

(Continued on page 4.)

### COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON



### BOY SCOUTS OF ITALY, FOLLOWING AMERICAN SYSTEM, DEVELOP MARKED EFFICIENCY



"FIRST AID" DEMONSTRATION BY ITALIAN BOY SCOUTS

It was a great tribute to the Boy Scouts of America when leaders of boys' societies in Italy, desirous of initiating the Scout movement into that country, visited America to study the American system because they believed it the best fitted for adoption in a new field. They appreciated the fact that for real boyish temperament and real scouting tradition the American boys had developed the work to its highest point, and, while the principles and tenets of Boy Scouts are the same the world over, it was the American system and enthusiasm which so impressed Italian workers among boys that they carried it home with them as the base for the training of their own youths. The honors of starting the Boy Scout movement in Italy are divided between two men, Professor Commendatore Carlo Colombo, of the University of Rome, and Commendatore Carlo Cattapani, vice president of the Playgrounds Association of Italy. Professor Colombo gave the actual basis of the work its start and has kept untiringly at it until to-day the Italian Scouts, although not large in number, are renowned for their efficiency. Commendatore Carlo Cattapani has achieved great fame, both in Italy and in America, as a leader of boys in paths that are straight and which lead to real manhood. He is in America at present on a lecture tour.

### BRANTFORD GETS CHANCE TO FORM AN AVIATORS' SCHOOL

Letter From Toronto Asking if There is Land Available Near the City on Which Aeroplanes Can Land Also Suggests Financial Assistance From City and Citizens to Open an Aviation School Here.

That there is at least a possibility of an aviation school being established in Brantford, is evident at the city communication now on file at the city clerk's department. W. Hamilton Merritt, on behalf of the Canadian Aviation Fund, points out the great part played by aviators in the present war and the need for schools of aviation. He enquires whether there is near Brantford an open tract of land two miles long from north to south, and a traverse tract of the same length east and west, to allow an aeroplane to run along the ground, 400 yards would be sufficient width for these tracts.

He desires to know also whether the city would give the use of this land free, should it be obtainable; whether there are water facilities nearby for hydroplanes, and sufficient land for the purpose of erecting hangars; whether, in case patriotic citizens of Brantford should raise the sum necessary to equip an aviation school here (\$75,000 to \$100,000) the city council would be willing to grant a reasonable proportion of this amount. He enquires also if the city would give aid both financially and in the use of land, if an outside organization should equip and maintain such a school here.

His city council meets on Monday night, and the matter will be up then for discussion.

In a speech in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, in New York, Lieut. Roosevelt, son of Col. Roosevelt, advocated the Australian system of military training.

### FIGHTING IN THE BALKANS

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, April 12.—Resumption of violent cannonading along the Greek frontier in vicinity of Givogeli and Doiran, is reported in a despatch from Saloniki to The Journal. It is said the French artillery had the advantage.

It is also reported that the German allies captured the fortified position at Deve Tepe, but this has not been confirmed.

### SAPPER W. BETTS KILLED IN FRANCE

Sad News Received To-day by His Mother on Ontario St.

Mrs. Margaret F. Betts, 41 Ontario St., received the following telegram: "Deeply regret inform you 11,556 Sapper William Betts, engineer, officially reported killed in action March 30th."

Sapper Wm. Betts left Brantford with the first quota of Brantford men under Col. Colquhoun, and upon transferred a few months ago to the engineers, was in the 4th Battalion. He has been at the front since January, 1915, and went through all the battles of a year ago unwounded.

Before enlisting, he was employed at Gould, Shapley & Muir Co. as a core maker. He is unmarried. His father and mother live at 41 Ontario street. He leaves also three brothers in Canada, and one, Frank, is at the subject announced the emperor was unhurt.

His unexpected departure for Potsdam, however, and the mystery with which he is surrounded himself lead to the supposition that in reality the Kaiser either was struck by fragments of the shell or that the violence of the explosion has dangerously affected his nervous system.

### FRENCH ARE SUPERIOR TO GERMANS IN THE AIR

One Famous French Flyer Fought Five Fokkers Single-Handed in One Day.

Thrilling Accounts of Battles in Which Huns are Worsted.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, April 12.—As the French infantry and artillery are making every effort to block the efforts of the Germans to get towards Verdun their comrades in the air are no less busy. They have now established a complete ascendancy in that element and every day sees fresh exploits.

Last week Adjutant Navarre, who has accounted for seven German aeroplanes was in the air 24 hours in three days. He seems to sit in his machine as a good horseman sits on his horse. He handles his machine gun in such a way that to load it he has to let go the levers of the air craft. When it was pointed out to him that this was dangerous, he answered: "Possibly; but it is more convenient."

A few days ago Navarre fought five Fokkers single handed. "They were fairly far off," he said, "to the right and left and before and behind. I made sure that my baby (a fast aeroplane) was well in hand, and I did some tricks to amuse them."

"Suddenly, as if at a given signal, all five bore down on me. I waited for them, then I made three little loops and came up behind two Fokkers. Naturally I let drive at them. The others dared not try to strike me for fear of hitting their own pals. It was extremely funny."

One of the most extraordinary feats was performed by a beginner who is not yet twenty-one.

"I was having a little argument with two passengers in a Fokker some thirteen hundred feet up," said he smiling. "A broadside from their machine gun put mine out of business. There was nothing for me to do but to make myself scarce, but I was so angry I made a swoop at them and my propeller caught the tail of their machine, taking off the best part of it."

"The blow put my engine out of gear and I dropped 3,000 feet. I thought I was going to be shot out of my machine, but I managed to right her in time and hid the satisfaction of seeing my two Germans finish the race to death alone."

### CHINESE PROVINCE IS INDEPENDENT

30,000 Soldiers at Shanghai Will Join Revolutionists.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Shanghai, April 12.—The independence of the province of Che-Kiang was declared this morning at Hang-Chow, the capital of the province. The railway station was occupied by armed forces to maintain tranquillity and troops were despatched for the same purpose as far as Kashing. This declaration of independence caused surprise in Shanghai, as it had been understood that the revolutionists intended to announce the independence

of the provinces of Fokien and Honan before that of Che-Kiang. Action in the case of the last mentioned was probably hastened by the news that 30,000 government troops were approaching Shanghai. These have since been recalled.

It is expected here that the 30,000 soldiers located in Shanghai and surrounding districts will go over peacefully to the revolutionary side, unless some hotchais, under the leadership of Chen Chieh-shan, former Chinese minister of commerce, and now an energetic revolutionist, should attempt to take the arsenal by force.

Charging among other things that her husband tried to make her eat an electric light bulb, Mrs. Ellis Smith, of Boonton, N.J., is suing for separation.

### Dutch Steamer Palembang and Tubantia Sunk When Struck by Hun Torpedoes

Investigation Shows They Could Not Have Encountered Mine, and the Presumption in the Case of the Former Ship is Very Strong Against the Germans.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Amsterdam, via London, April 12.—The Dutch shipping council which was entrusted by the government with the official investigation into the sinking of the Dutch steamships Palembang and Tubantia, has issued the report of its findings. It gives in great detail the particulars of the facts established regarding the loss of these vessels.

With regard to the Palembang the report says in part: "Three explosions took place. The first was caused by the explosion at some distance of a drifting mine, which was fired upon by a British torpedo boat destroyer. After the explosion the Palembang remained undamaged. The second explosion was caused by a torpedo fired at short range, which hit the Palembang. This is established beyond doubt by the unanimous statement of the witnesses who saw the track of the torpedo. It could not have been fired by the British torpedo boat destroyer, because the torpedo passed some metres in front of the latter vessel. It is possible that the torpedo was meant for the destroyer, but, missing it, hit the Palembang."

The third explosion was also a torpedo. The first mate of the steamer clearly saw its track approaching six lengths away on the starboard. The torpedo was aimed at the Palembang because the British torpedo-boat destroyer was then a great distance away.

"The definite statements of the crew are confirmed by the fact that no ship was hit."

other drifting mines were observed, and the Palembang at the time of the second and third explosions, was motionless and there was, therefore, no possibility of a collision with an anchored mine. Even supposing that the Palembang was carried along by the current, it must be observed that the current was nearly due south, so that the mine would have hit the ship on the port side, whereas the explosion took place on the starboard."

THE TUBANTIA.

With regard to the Tubantia the report says in part:

"The ship was preparing to cast anchor at 2.30 a.m. when she was hit and a severe explosion took place in the coal bunkers on the starboard side, behind the first funnel. The explosion caused a hole extending from the bottom to the shelter deck. Witnesses observed a streak on the water approaching the Tubantia at great speed, directed at the point where the explosion occurred."

From investigations made by experts it is clearly shown that the pieces of metal in the Tubantia's boat came from a Schwartzkopf torpedo. Statements of witnesses and of experts prove that the explosion was caused by a torpedo, fired from some distance by a submarine or a torpedo boat without warning. In view of the fact that no other vessel was in the vicinity it is evident that the torpedo was meant for the Tubantia.

"That no lives were lost was due merely to the fact that no passengers had cabins near the spot where the ship was hit."

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Motorcycle Policeman John McKenna of St. Louis, was shot and killed by one of two automobile bandits he had arrested.