

AWFUL FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF OVILLERS

British and Prussian Guards Fought Desperately in the Cellars.

TOWN IS WRECKED

Germans Given Credit for Their Stand in Desperate Situation.

With the British Armies in France, via London Cable.—In all the fighting during the past fortnight the struggle for Ovillers stands out as a siege, wherein both attack and defence were of the most dogged and desperate kind. The surrender of the remnants of its garrison ends an episode which will not be forgotten in history. These men were of the Third Prussian Guard, and General Haig, in his despatches, paid a tribute to their bravery, which was echoed by the officers and men who fought against them. It is a tribute to the British troops also, who, by no less courage, broke down their stubborn resistance and captured the garrison.

The town of Ovillers does not exist. It was annihilated by bombardment and made a rubbish heap of bricks and dust, but afterwards when the British were separated from the Germans by only a yard or two, or a barricade or two, the artillery on both sides ceased to fire upon Ovillers lest the gunners kill their own men. They centred an intense barrage fire round about. The British shells fell incessantly on the German communication trenches to the north and east, so that the beleaguered garrison could not get supplies or reinforcements.

The British made a wall of death about them, but though no shells now burst over the ground where many of the dead lay strewn, there was an artillery of machine guns and bombs. The Prussian Guard made full use of the vaulted cellars of the ruined houses. They made a series of small keeps, which they defended almost entirely by machine gun fire. Between the attacks of the British bombing parties they went below into the dark vaults, where they were safe enough from trench mortars and hand grenades, leaving only a sentry or two on the lookout for an infantry assault. As soon as the British advanced, machine guns were set to play their hoarse bullets across the ground the British had to cover.

One by one, by getting around them, working zig-zag through the cellars' ruins, by sudden rushes of bombing parties the British knocked out the machine gun emplacements and the gunners who served them until only the last remnant of the garrison was left in Ovillers. These men of the Prussian Guard had long been in a hopeless position, starving, because supplies had been cut off by the never ending barrage fire. They had no water and suffered the torture of a great thirst and they were living in channel houses strewn with the dead bodies of comrades and wounded men, delicious for the lack of drink. Human nature could not longer make resistance and at last the officers raised the signal of surrender and came over with nearly 140 men, nearly all of whom held their hands up.

The fighting had been savage. At close grips in broken earthworks and deep cellars there had been no sentiment, but the British and Germans flung themselves upon each other with bombs and any kind of weapons. But when all was ended the last of the German garrison was received with the honors of war and none of the British soldiers denied them the full respect due to their courage. "They stuck to it splendidly," was the verdict.

RUSSIAN GAINS IN CAUCASUS

Cossacks Drive Turks From Strong Positions.

Complete Company Captured in Taurus Region.

London cable says: The Russian official from the Caucasus front reports progress by the Grand Duke's troops. On the right wing the offensive continues and successes have been gained at a number of important points. On the 17th the Kuban Cossacks by vigorous and sustained attacks dislodged the enemy from positions that had been powerfully organized. In several places not only did the Cossacks reach the snow line, but they even crossed it.

Two machine guns, a considerable quantity of arms, and a number of prisoners were taken in the region of the town of Medjag; and in the region of Taurus a complete Turkish company was captured.

In the course of the attack on the 15th before Baiburt the Russians captured 34 officers, 608 men and two machine guns.

The following statement was issued by the Turkish War Office:

"Constantinople declares that the Russians have lost heavily in the fighting south of the Tchuruk, and that enemy airmen dropped bombs near the hospitals and barracks at

IN HUN PRISONS.

Several American Women Said to be Confined.

London Cable.—(N. Y. Times cable.)—The Daily Mail publishes an account by an English woman, Miss Robson, of imprisonment in Berlin. She was a governess in the family of Count Von Farstenstein, and suffered no molestation until June 18, when she was ordered to report herself in Berlin, where she was placed in the women's prison. No reason was given, but the prison doctor said to her:

"In England they are arresting our women and children. We have a right to arrest English women and children here."

Miss Robson says her fellow-prisoners included several American women. She applied to have her case put before the American authorities, and on July 15 was conducted to the American Embassy, where she was informed she was at liberty. The same day she was put aboard a train for Flushing, en route for England.

ALLIED DRIVE UPON BULGARS

Cannonade On Saloniki Front May Foretell One.

Entente Airmen Burned the Enemy's Crops.

Paris cable: Official advices received from Saloniki under date of Monday say that cannonading is in progress along the entire Saloniki front.

Allied aeroplanes burned part of the Bulgarian crops in the region of Monastir, the statement says.

"There is cannonading along the whole front."

The information given out by the French authorities in regard to the situation at Saloniki is not sufficiently explicit to indicate whether the Entente allies are preparing an offensive movement such as would be preceded by a general bombardment. A drive from the Saloniki front has been predicted for some time during the summer. A Saloniki despatch of several weeks ago said that an allied offensive in Macedonia had been arranged for the middle of May, but that it had been postponed and might be expected in July, at the latest. There are some 130,000 Serbian troops on this front, several hundred thousand French and British soldiers. It is generally understood the allies have 600,000 or more available men for a campaign. Opposed to them are the Bulgarians with unknown numbers of Turks, Germans and Austrians. It has been reported that Bulgaria's allies have withdrawn troops recently on account of the offensive campaigns on the French, Russian and Caucasian fronts.

CREW OF SUB. IS IN TERROR

Deutschland Sailors Fear Nets of the Allies,

Who Are Awaiting Them Outside the Capes.

Baltimore, Md., Cable.—Terror-stricken and on the verge of a panic, the crew of the Deutschland dread the order that will start them on their return passage across the Atlantic. None believe they will escape the dragnet being thrown out by the allied cruisers now off the capes. They feel sure that they will fall victims to the enemy cruisers, not through shot from the yawning mouths of the cannons, nor ball from the high-powered rifles in the little British patrol boats, but from disabled engines in a net that the enemy is spreading just off the three-mile limit.

The members of the crew, whose names will go down in history for the creation of a new commercial era, have openly expressed this feeling to friends on Locust Point. They have told these same friends that Captain Paul Koenig, the dapper and daring commander of the submersible, is doing everything in his power to keep up their spirits and make them look on the bright side of the affair, but the men cannot see this side of the venture.

"We are praying every night, and are getting our friends to pray for us," Second Engineer Karl Fruechte told a friend he has been spending his evenings with since the crew have been granted shore leave. This same friend to-day told the story of the terror-stricken crew to a press representative, not knowing at the time he was talking to a reporter.

"The crew have orders to be ready to leave at any moment," said this friend of Fruechte this afternoon. "They cannot bring themselves about to see how the Deutschland will escape the enemy off the capes. All the men have been talking about since they have been visiting me is of the loved ones they will leave behind, should the U-boat find a resting place at the bottom of the Atlantic. It is not the cannon and the other guns the men fear—it's the nets the enemy cruisers will stretch. Entangled in these the submarine cannot escape, her engines will be crippled, and it will be a slow and agonizing death to all on board. When the engines stop the lights will go out and the air will stop. That is what the men fear. They talk of it continually while with me at night, and they ask everyone to pray for them."

STAFF CHIEF'S HIGH PRAISE FOR OUR MEN

Gen. Sir Wm. Robertson Speaks of the Aid of the Overseas Forces.

SURE OF VICTORY

"We Really Are Not Worried by the Course of the War."

London Cable.—"No, we really are not worried by the course of the war," said General Sir William R. Robertson, chief of the Imperial staff at army headquarters, in an interview to-day with the Associated Press.

"As to the new offensive, a glance at the map will tell the story of our progress. And the happy expression of our wounded soldiers from the front reflects the spirit of the men. Do you notice that all published photographs show them smiling or laughing?"

The general himself smiled genially as he spoke; nevertheless his manner subtly conveyed his realization of the fact that he was breaking the silence he had maintained so rigidly since the beginning of the war. He received the correspondent while seated at a table in the War Office within a few feet of the wire which permits him to reflect the spirit of the men and the constantly-arriving messages, to direct the moves in the conflict in France.

The room is in keeping with the character of the man. It is furnished with such Spartan simplicity that the table, chairs and map-rack are the only articles of furniture. Broad of shoulder, and sturdy of form, with a reach of arm that might well be the envy of any prize-fighter, Sir William's personality tells of tremendous vigor that seems to belie his 56 years, and such quick mental perception that one expects him to anticipate the trend of one's thought. Slightly above the medium height, he has a firm jaw, high forehead, closely-cropped iron-gray mustache and kindly gray eyes, which commander all comers as friends. The iron hand in the velvet glove is sensed, but not perceived. There is just enough of the enigmatical in his personality to give a touch of extra interest.

PROUD OF OVERSEAS TROOPS.

"Our hearts were touched by the ready response of our fellow-Britishers from overseas on the outbreak of the war," the General continued. "To say we are proud of these men underestimates our sentiments. If the manner in which these sturdy sons of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and our gallant little Newfoundland came forward with their thousands surprised the enemy, their valor and gallantry in battle were a revelation to the world."

"We have come to feel that our type of government is not so bad, after all, for they are still coming; and while it is hard to single out particular parts of the Empire, the Canadians can learn again through you our high appreciation of their splendid fighting spirit and well organized armies. At Ypres, Festubert and many other closely contested engagements they demonstrated the high type of vigorous manhood produced in the new world."

The subject of general speculation as to how long the war would last caused the General to snake his head and smile.

"That is a question touching human nature, which means dealing with a dubious proposition," he said. "None is wise in this."

Referring to the complimentary references by military experts to the work of the big British guns and the use of cavalry in the offensive, Sir William remarked:

TRAINING OF GUNNERS.

"The work of the guns interests us not only because of the organization required to produce them, but on account of the careful training which is necessary before the gunners are proficient. Scientifically accurate gunnery is required in this war probably as never before. The necessity of firing over the heads of advancing infantry of one's own side makes it so, and it is necessary that troops thus advancing have perfect confidence in the gunners as they gradually raise the Niagara of shells as the infantry advances—a problem requiring greater skill as the infantry's distance increases.

"Any success of our cavalry is no surprise to us, as there are no men in any branch of the service more carefully selected, or trained or with higher traditions to live up to."

Sir William said that Great Britain had accomplished a remarkable task by reaching Germany's state of development in the art of war in two years of preparation and training.

"But it must be remembered," he said, "that England was not without war experience before the present conflict."

MORE PARALYSIS.

Windsor is Taking Measures to Fight Its Spread.

Windsor, Report.—Three more cases of suspected infantile paralysis were discovered inside the city limits to-day making a total of seven for the border municipalities. None of the cases have shown much improvement according to Dr. G. R. Cruickshank, M.H.O., and all are being closely watched for developments. Beginning at once the Police Department will co-operate actively with the Health Board in seeing to it that children are not admitted to theatres and also that they do not congregate at public playgrounds. Parents will be held responsible if the children are found in prohibited localities.

ITALY HITS BACK.

Adopts Reprisals Against German Subjects.

Rome, Cable.—A royal decree was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies to-day containing reprisal measures against German subjects.

The decree was the result of the strained relations between Italy and Germany. The decree, which was prepared by Baron Sonnino and Signor Sacchi and Raineri, extends to the alien enemies of Italy and her allies every measure adopted against the Austrian subjects.

The first part of the decree prohibits every transfer of property.

The second prohibits a recourse to law courts.

The third authorizes the Government to adopt against the alien enemies of Italy and her allies additional reprisal measures.

OUTLOOK FOR FIELD CROPS

Areas Sown in Canada, Grain and Hay Condition

And Estimates of Farm Live Stock.

A press bulletin lately issued by the Ottawa Census and Statistics Office estimates finally the areas sown to the principal field crops in Canada for the season of 1916, reports on the condition of grain and hay crops at the end of June, and gives estimates of the numbers of farm live stock at the same date.

Areas sown to field crops.—The reports received from correspondents at the end of June are confirmatory of the estimates issued a month ago, when seeding had not been completed. What differences exist are in almost all cases caused by slightly higher returns this month. The area sown to wheat in Canada is now definitely estimated at 11,517,600 acres, which is 1,863,800 acres, or 11.3 per cent., below the high record of last year, when 12,986,400 acres were harvested; but 1,223,700 acres, or 11.9 per cent., above the harvested area of 1914, which was 10,293,900 acres. The acreages estimated as sown to other crops are as follows:

Oats 10,644,000 as against 11,365,000 last year; barley 1,397,900 against 1,609,350; rye 159,885 against 466,800; hay and clover 7,974,000 against 7,875,000; alfalfa 89,900 against 92,600. Of late sown crops the acreages are as follows: Buckwheat 355,500 against 343,800 in 1915; flax 723,000 against 806,600; corn for husking 183,700 against 253,300; beans 34,490 against 43,310; potatoes 448,800 against 478,600; turnips, etc., 156,200 against 172,700; sugar beets 15,000 against 18,000 and corn for fodder 297,070 against 343,400.

Condition of grain and hay crops.—The reports show that the prospects for grain crops are excellent throughout the west, but owing to the lateness of the season there will be a greater risk of damage from early frosts than last year. For all Canada the condition of the principal grain crops, expressed in percentage of the standard, ranges from 82 for peas to 91 for rye; but in the Northwest provinces the condition is well over 90, and for Manitoba and Saskatchewan it is higher than at the same date last year, when the high percentage at the end of June was so abundantly fulfilled. Converting the figures in percent. of a standard of 100 to the scale in which 100 represents the average condition on June 30 of the past eight years, 1908-1915, the condition becomes for wheat, rye, barley and oats as follows: Fall wheat 99.2, spring wheat 100.2, all wheat 100.2, rye 103.8, barley 98.5, oats 96. That is to say, if conditions between June 30 and the date of harvest are not abnormal, the anticipated yield per acre is about equal to the average for wheat, 3.6 per cent. above average for rye, about 2 per cent. below average for barley and 4 per cent. below average for oats.

Estimated numbers for farm live stock. It is estimated from the reports of correspondents that the numbers of farm live stock in Canada on June 30 were as follows: Horses 2,990,635; mitch cows 2,605,345; other cattle 3,826,510; sheep 1,965,101; and swine 672. As compared with 1915 these figures represent decreases of horses by 5,404; of mitch cows by 63,501; of sheep by 73,561 and of swine by 297,228; but an increase of "other cattle" by 427,364. The decreases apply principally to Eastern Canada; in the west all descriptions show increases over last year, except swine in all three provinces, and "other cattle" in Manitoba.

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION DROPS

Ottawa, Report.—The consumption of alcoholic liquors in Canada dropped from .87 per capita to .745 per capita in the fiscal year just ended according to returns issued to-day by the Inland Revenue Department. The consumption was about three-quarters of a gallon per capita for spirits, for beer nearly one gallon, and for wine .685 gallon. The consumption of tobacco also shows a falling off of from 3.227 pounds to 3.229 pounds per head.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Official Historian of Boer War Killed in Battle in France.

NOTED SURGEON DEAD

Two Arrests in Connection With Dope Traffic at Kingston Pen.

An electric storm did serious damage in the Eastern Townships.

Mrs. Tillie Gellar, a Toronto bride of three days, ended her life by taking carbolic acid.

Mr. Alexander Robinson, 70 years old, was struck down and seriously injured by an auto in Toronto.

Capt. C. O. Beardmore, a prominent military and business man of Toronto, died suddenly in Philadelphia.

The steamer Joseph Sellwood, of the Picklands Mather fleet, is reported ashore near Rogers City, upper lakes, and leaking badly.

Mrs. Martha McKittrick, held for eleven years as a vagrant in Orangeville jail, has been released as a result of a sister's bequest.

The clothing of Andrew Goldie, 70 years old, who has been missing for two days, was found in a locker at the swimming baths in Toronto.

By the death of Mrs. G. D. Gilchrist, which occurred at her residence in her 91st year, Clinton loses one of its oldest and most respected citizens.

Two Swedish flight lieutenants, Mannstrom and Krus, were killed while engaged in a flight. Their machine fell from a height of 300 feet.

Earl Jenkins, an eight-year-old boy, whose home is in Windsor, is missing since he left his home to go swimming. He is believed to have been drowned.

Lewis Martin, proprietor of the Revere Hotel, Kingston, and John Brown, a guard at the penitentiary, are under arrest, charged with trafficking in dope for convicts at the penitentiary.

Prof. W. W. Swanson, associate professor of political and economical science at Queen's University, has resigned, having been appointed to the chair of economics in the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon.

Lieut.-Col. R. J. Gardiner, acting A. D. M. S., of the 3rd Division, since the late Lieut.-Col. Duff went overseas, has been appointed medical officer of the Royal Military College in succession to Major Kilborn, who lately retired.

Charles Smale, the Michigan Central switchman injured at Windsor by falling from a freight car in the yards, died at Hotel Dieu. His injuries were such that doctors could not operate, and death resulted from shock. Smale was 32, and married.

Ten-year-old Norval Jajole, of Belle River, near Windsor, unable to swim, was drowned when he lost his balance and fell from some stones in a shallow bay into deep water. The body was recovered a few minutes later, but life was extinct.

Major Sir Foster Hugh Egerton Cunliffe, military historian, has been killed in the fighting in France. Major Cunliffe wrote the official history of the Boer war as well as several books on the present conflict. He was born in 1875.

Sir Victor Horsley, a noted surgeon, died from a heart stroke in Mesopotamia. He was born in 1857, and was created a knight in 1902. He was emeritus professor of clinical surgery and consulting surgeon at the University College Hospital since 1906.

The 14-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert McGee, Varna, Ont., died of infantile paralysis, as diagnosed by the attending physicians. This is the second case so far this summer of death in Western Ontario from this dread disease.

VERDUN FRONT IS BOMBARDED

General Shelling From Hill 304 to Eparges.

Believed to Herald Attempt to Storm.

London Cable.—The Germans have opened up a general bombardment along the entire front north of Verdun, extending from Hill 304, west of the Meuse, to Fleury and Eparges on the east. That the bombardment is the herald of storming actions is the belief in military circles.

To-night's reports from Paris tell of the bombardment, but say that no infantry actions have yet taken place. Berlin states that French attacks during the night against the important height of Froideterre were fruitless, but an earlier communique of the French War Office announced some slight progress in the Fleury sector.

A dietary crank arises to warn a misguided world that fried eggs for breakfast, or for that matter at any other meal, are conducive to insanity. Then what food is it that turns people into dietary cranks?—San Francisco Chronicle.

GUARD THE SUB.

U. S. Cruiser to Convoy Her to 3-Mile Limit.

Washington Report.—When the German submarine liner Deutschland starts its dash across the three-mile limit outside the Virginia Capes, it probably will be under the protection of the armored cruiser North Carolina, one of the vessels of the navy equipped with aeroplanes.

The North Carolina is especially fitted for long-range observation, having a catapult arrangements for launching aeroplanes from her deck.

The Navy Department has no intention of publicly announcing that the North Carolina is to see that the allied warships do not chaperone the Deutschland to the three-mile limit, but it is well understood at the Navy Department that the cruiser will find it convenient to leave Hampton Roads on her way to Newport at the time the Deutschland begins her journey.

Several days ago Secretary Daniels ordered the North Carolina from her base at Pensacola to Newport, where the fleet is assembled for manoeuvres. According to the Secretary, the cruiser stopped in at Hampton Roads to get coal. As Pensacola, however, is the aeronautic station of the navy, it is well supplied with coal.

SMUTS DRIVING THE GERMANS

London cable says: The following official report in regard to the campaign in German East Africa was issued to-day:

"Telegraphing July 18, General Smuts reports that the enemy forces which endeavored to operate against his communications north of Handeni, and on the Usambara Railway, between Korogwe and Tanga, have now been driven down the Pangani River, abandoning a field gun. Clearance of this area is progressing satisfactorily."

"On the southern shore of Lake Victoria, the force under Brigadier-Gen. Sir C. Crewe, having disembarked at Kogongo, occupied Muanza during the night of July 14-15. The enemy evacuated the town after slight resistance, leaving many rifles, a portion of a supply column, and a naval gun of the cruiser Konigsburg in our hands. A majority of the German Europeans embarked on a steamship and fled southward by Stuhlmann Sound, pursued by our armed lake vessels."

ITALY GAINS IN POSINA VALLEY

Took Positions at Corona del Coston From Austrians.

Enemy Attack in Pasubia Sector Repulsed.

Rome cable, via London, says:—A new advance for the Italians in the upper Posina valley, where they succeeded in capturing positions at the Corona del Coston, was announced by the War Office. A strong attack by the Austrians on the Italians in the Pasubia sector was repulsed.

The statement follows: "On the night of July 17 there was intense artillery fire in the Ledro valley."

"Strong enemy detachments attacked our line on the Pasubio, but were repulsed with heavy loss."

"The enemy's artillery yesterday kept our positions in the Lagarina valley under its fire, but it was effectually answered."

"In the upper Posina our troops, after artillery preparation, renewed their attacks on Corona del Coston. The enemy's batteries did not reply to our bombardment, but afterwards began an intense gust of fire. We, however, succeeded in gaining new positions on the rocky slopes of the mountain."

"Along the remainder of the front there were artillery actions, especially in the upper Boite, at the head of the Seisera valley, where the enemy disclosed new heavy batteries, and on the height west of Gorizia."

"An enemy aeroplane dropped bombs on Marostica, northeast of Vicenza, in Venetia, as a result of which there were some victims and slight damage."

CANADIAN AVIATOR KILLED.

Toronto Report.—Word was received by cable in Toronto last night to the effect that Flight Sub-Lieut. Douglas Whittier, a Canadian, was instantly killed yesterday while looping-the-loop at a great altitude over the island of Thanet, County Kent, England. During the manoeuvre the machine became unmanageable, and fell to the ground. It was smashed to splinters, and Lieut. Whittier's body was badly mangled. It has not been ascertained whether Lieut. Whittier is one of the aviators who training at the Curtis School in Toronto, or whether he went overseas to qualify as a pilot.

CONCILIATION BOARD GRANTED.

Ottawa, Report.—A board of conciliation has been granted by the Labor Department in the dispute between the Great North-Western Telegraph Company and its employees. Only one member of the board has been named, Mr. J. Campbell, of Winnipeg.

The dispute is as to the conditions of payment and hours of labor and affects the whole system in Canada.

If you use a brick for an iron stand, your iron will remain hot longer than with the ordinary iron stand.