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RUSSIANS MAKING PROGRESS

Russians Report an Increasing Toll of Captured Cannon—Czar's Forces Now Nearing Trebizond—An Important Turkish Black Sea Port

PETROGRAD, March 3.—The Russian advance in Asia Minor is proceeding along the three main lines, from Erzerum towards Trebizond, Sivas and Bitlis, meeting with equal success in all three directions. Since there has been no serious Turkish resistance since the fall of Erzerum there is little to record in this theatre of operations, except a continued forward sweep of the Russian armies, retarded only by the rugged character of the country, and the severity of the weather. In their retreat the Turks appear to have been mainly occupied with attempts to save their guns and equipment, in which they were only partially successful as the Russians report an increasing toll of captured cannon, which the Turks were forced to abandon.

The Turks are said to be strengthening the fortifications at Sivas, which is about two hundred miles west of Erzerum, this point being the only one considered here as likely to be a serious obstruction to the westward progress of the Russians. It is believed to be improbable that the Turks will attempt to make a stand until Sivas is reached. Turkish reinforcements are pouring daily into this centre.

In the north and south passes the Russians are progressing. Their forces are close up to Trebizond and Bitlis and the Russian occupation of both these cities is momentarily expected. This successful co-ordination between the different Russian army groups is enabling the main army, which is proceeding due west from Erzerum, to continue its advance without reaching too far ahead of its supporting wings and becoming subject to flanking attacks from the Turks.

There is no recent official news regarding the progress of the Russian forces in Persia, but with Kermanshah safe in their hands, they are now reported moving towards the British forces in Mesopotamia. The junction of these two forces is regarded by military writers here to be a foregone conclusion.

SENATE DOES AS WOODROW WISHES

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3.—By a vote of 68 to 14, the Senate to-day carried out President Wilson's wish and killed Senator Gore's resolution to warn Americans off armed belligerent ships.

Will Be Used as Naval Auxiliary

Cunard Liner "California" Has Been Taken Over by the Government.

NEW YORK, Mar. 3.—The Cunard Line offices were notified to-day by cablegram from the Home Office at Liverpool to stop the loading of the California and cancel the passage of all persons who have booked on her. The California was due to sail from Liverpool to-morrow evening. Forty cabin passengers and 75 third class passengers made reservations. The cable message gave no reason for the order, but the understanding here is that the British Government intends to take over the California as a naval auxiliary ship.

GERMAN STEAMER LOST STRIKES GERMAN MINE

LONDON, March 3.—The German steamer Delta from Apenrade, Prussia is believed to have struck a German mine field south of the Sound, and foundered, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from Copenhagen. Wreckage from the Delta was washed ashore.

GERMAN AIR RAIDER MEETS HIS FATE

LONDON, Mar. 3.—A German seaplane returning from England, was yesterday picked up by the French three miles north of Middlekerke Bank off the Belgian coast. It was announced officially, in a statement given out this evening, that one of the observers of the machine was drowned and one was made prisoner.

Was Instigator Of Plan to Get Arms to India

SHANGHAI, March 4.—The police have discovered five cases of artillery ammunition at the bottom of a well in a garden attached to the residence of a German, who is said to have been the instigator of a plan to send war munitions secretly to India.

FRENCH OCCUPY SLOPE NEAR DOUAUMONT

PARIS, Mar. 3.—The French have occupied the highest part of the mound on the northern slope on which the village of Douaumont is situated, according to the French official made public this evening. Bombardment continues very violent along the entire front from the west of the Meuse to Woerze region.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

Blockade Troubles Are Minimized

Co-ordination Has Been Secured Which Will Greatly Help American Shippers—U.S. Consul Skinner Does Good Work in Matter

LONDON, March 3.—Discussing the duties of his new position to-day with the Associated Press, Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade said co-ordination has been secured, and we expect by the adoption of new plans suggested by Consul Skinner will greatly assist American shippers in their trade with neutrals. We are now considering the contraband list to see if it is adequate in its present conditions.

Lord Robert Cecil expressed confidence in the reorganized department which would conduct the blockade with minimum friction and maximum efficiency. My new department, he said, really includes what formerly was handled by the foreign office of war trade departments, which contrary to general belief was independent to the Foreign Office and Admiralty. Co-ordination of the three has now been secured and we hope its working will allay irritation to neutrals, at any rate so that the blockade may be conducted on a more business-like basis. I am working with great cordiality with the Admiralty, who provides an admiral in the North Sea who is in actual contact with the work of stopping ships. Although Consul Genl. Skinner's modesty disclaims credit, I can say the new plans dealing with American shippers were his suggestions. As formerly conducted British shippers could ascertain in advance definitely, as to what could go through to neutrals, while Americans had to take the chance with resultant financial risk. Under the new plan the machinery, which has been left to British diplomatic consular officers will be put in operation, whereby the British government will give American shippers information as to the probable fate of any cargo they desire to ship. Any cargo which corresponds with freight which British exporters would be permitted to ship under license, will be given a letter passing it through the blockade. The government will however reserve the right to stop any ship if any suspicious circumstances arise, warranting such action. We will not attempt to dictate to American shippers what they shall ship as we do to our own shippers but will give them all the necessary information. There have been no extension in the contraband list, but it is being considered to see if it is adequate in its present conditions.

Questioned about the effect of the blockade on Germany, Lord Robert said, "The rapid fall mark is the best indication that our economic pressure on Germany is being felt, and evidence is growing that the German people are beginning to feel the pinch due to shortage of food."

The War Minister concluded the interview by declaring his disbelief in the story of a commission, headed by Viscount Bryce was going to America to discuss the blockade problem. The government was quite satisfied with the work of Ambassador Sir Cecil Spring Rice, he declared.

Hun Attacks On Verdun Are Renewed

Germans Meet Awful Losses in Fruitless Endeavors Near Douaumont—Huns Attack Village of Vaux But Are Repulsed by the French

PARIS, Mar. 3.—Bombardments and attacks on the part of German troops continued all yesterday evening in the region to the north of Verdun, according to announcement made by the French War Office this afternoon. This fighting was conducted with redoubled violence. Near Douaumont several fruitless endeavors on the part of the Germans were repulsed with cruel losses for them, nevertheless the Germans succeeded in reaching the village of Douaumont, where fighting is continued with ferocity. The village of Vaux also was attacked by the Germans, but their advances were checked by French fire, and the Germans were compelled to retire, leaving a great number of dead.

The bombardment continued with great intensity yesterday evening, and last night, in the Woerze district, but the French forces held the Germans in check, by their curtain of fire. The artillery of the Germans has been active in the vicinity of Malancourt and near Haucourt.

"Hear me, dearest," implored the young man. "I'm all on fire."

"Well," replied the sweet girl. "I'll call papa to put you out."

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, Mar. 3.—The British official this evening says:

"On the evening of the 2nd we exploded five mines near the Hohenzollern redoubt, and occupied the craters, one of which contained the enemy's main mining shaft. A hostile bombing attack was repulsed. There has been considerable artillery activity on both sides in this neighbourhood to-day."

On the Ypres-Comines Canal we have consolidated the positions taken yesterday, which include some 200 yards of the enemy's original trenches.

"Prisoners now amount to five officers and 249 men of other ranks."

FRENCH

PARIS, March 3 (official).—In the region north of Verdun the enemy's bombardment and attacks continued during all last night with renewed violence. In the sector of Douaumont Village, after several unsuccessful attempts, which were repulsed with very heavy losses for the enemy, the Germans succeeded in gaining a footing in Douaumont Village, where fighting continues with great intensity. A little to the east, the Vaux village was at the same hour attacked by the enemy. Assaults made to the north and north-east of that village were checked and stopped by our crossfires and by our machine guns. The Germans had to withdraw, after leaving a great number of corpses in our wire entanglements.

In the Woerze yesterday and during the night bombardment was kept up, but enemy activity was stopped by our crossfires. The enemy did not come out west of the Meuse, Malancourt and Haucourt regions. The Germans continue active bombardment.

In Lorraine, south of Parroy forest, a small German attack was dispersed by gun firing and grenades.

RUSSIAN

PETROGRAD, Mar. 3 (Official).—On the Western Russian front the enemy attempted an offensive in the district north of Czartorysk, but was dispersed by our artillery.

On the Caucasian front our troops continue the pursuit of the Turks. Fighting in this district is proceeding under exceptional difficulties. There is complete disorganization of the roads, owing to frost and snow. Our troops last night carried by assault, Bitlis, capturing six cannon. Among the Turkish prisoners are 17 officers, including a colonel.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

MARCH 4th, 1916.

1199 Private Joshua Short, New Bonaventure. Previously reported dangerously ill with pneumonia. Port Tewfik, Suez, Feb. 28. Now reported to be out of danger. March 3.

J. R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

A HURRY-UP-CALL.

"Her husband has been a sufferer for many years, hasn't he?"

"I don't know—how long they have been married?"

Will Have Big Effect On Neutrals

British Press Studying Attitude of Neutrals Regarding Battle of Verdun—Teutonic Victory Would Mean Big Changes in International Situation

LONDON, March 4.—The British Press is studying carefully the effect of the Verdun fighting on public opinion in various European capitals, particularly such neutral countries as Greece, Roumania, Scandinavia and Holland.

A special correspondent sent to Sweden warns the British public as follows: "Any decisive German success will produce a far-reaching political effect upon certain neutrals and the rebound on Sweden would be great and almost immediate. It is hardly realized abroad that the recent fluctuations of the attitude of Sweden were the direct results of the vicissitudes of the campaign in general and of the Russian's grave reverse in particular. While the majority of the Swedish people entertain no desire to exchange a safe and lucrative neutrality for belligerency, which can bring no lasting advantage, the sentiments of the inarticulate majority are of little avail against those by which ruling statesmen are impressed. It is certain that a decisive Teutonic victory at the present juncture would be followed by a most important change in the international situation."

FRENCH OFFICIAL

PARIS, March 4 (official).—In Belgium we shelled German cantonments.

In Langemarck district, north of the Aisne, a heavy German patrol who had attacked one of our small posts was thrown back with losses.

A destructive fire was opened by our batteries on German works east of Neuville, and south of Berry-aux-Bac.

In Argonne our artillery was busy bombarding the German lines at Fille Morte and Cheppy Woods. We exploded with success a countermine at Saint Hubert.

In the district north of Verdun the struggle was very spirited near Douaumont Village. We hold a high part of the hill on the northern slope, which is the scene of strong counter attack by our troops, enabling us to recapture some ground around the outskirts of the Village.

Bombardment is very violent west and east of the Meuse, also in Woerze. Our artillery concentrated fires on German posts, especially near Beaumont, where a column on the march was dispersed. In high Alsace we captured several German trenches east of Seppois. A German counter attack was powerless to dislodge us from the ground gained.

Adjutant Navare felled yesterday in Douaumont district another German aeroplane of the Albatross type, which fell in our lines. The passengers wounded were captured. This is the sixth aeroplane brought down by this officer.

Belgian official—Quiet day on our front except in Steenstrate district, where there is a bomb struggle.

MORE HUN COURT-MARTIALS IN BRUSSELS

AMSTERDAM, March 4.—The "Handesblad" says that a German court-martial in Brussels has sentenced three more Belgians, one of whom is a woman, to imprisonment with hard labor.

KITCHENER GETS THE LEGION OF HONOR

LONDON, Mar. 3.—Field Marshal Kitchener, British Secretary of War, received to-day the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honor from the French Ambassador at the War Office. This was officially announced this evening.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Is Satisfied With Situation At Verdun

PARIS, March 4.—General Gallieni, Minister of War, has told the Commission on Military Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies, that he is satisfied with the situation at Verdun. He gave details of reserves of men and stocks of ammunition now available.

MINE SWEEPER PRIMULA IS SUNK

LONDON, Mar. 3.—The Admiralty announces that the mine sweeper Primula was torpedoed and sunk on March 1st, in the Eastern Mediterranean, while performing usual duties.

All officers and crew, except three men, were saved and landed at Port Said.

SALANDRAIS GOVT. IS UPHELD BY DEPUTIES

ROME, March 3.—The Chamber of Deputies to-day gave Singor Salandra's Government a vote of confidence by 278 to 40 on the occasion of a motion by the Socialist leader Turati to open a discussion of the whole conduct of the war and the Government's foreign policy.

GALLANT FRENCH TROOPS ARE THANKED BY CABINET

PARIS, Mar. 3.—The Cabinet has requested Minister of War, General Gallieni, to ask the Commander-in-Chief of the Army to extend congratulations to his troops for the heroic courage with which they have repulsed the first shock of the enemy.

PETREL AT PORT AUX BASQUES

The S.S. Petrel arrived at Port aux Basques at 9 a.m. to-day and will leave with the Sagona for this port to-morrow if weather conditions are favourable.

IS WORLD'S GREATEST SEA HORROR

Cruiser Provence Had 4000 Souls on Board When Sunk—3130 Lives Are Lost—Is Greatest Ocean Tragedy of Modern Times

PARIS, Mar. 3.—It was announced by the French Ministry of Marine to-day that there were nearly 4,000 men on board the French auxiliary cruiser Provence, when she was sunk in the Mediterranean on Feb. 26th. It is stated that on board were the staff of the third Colonial infantry regiment, the third battalion, and second machine gun company, as well as one extra company—in all, nearly 4,000 men.

The Ministry of Marine on Feb. 25th announced that the number of survivors of the disaster was estimated to be 870. It is indicated from the foregoing despatch that upwards of 3,130 lives were lost. The loss of more than three thousand lives by the sinking of the Provence is, the greatest ocean disaster of modern times up to the present.

The largest number of lives ever lost in one wreck was when the White Star liner Titanic struck an iceberg off Newfoundland Banks on April 14th, 1912, and sank with a death loss of 1,595; the rescued numbering 743.

No signs of a submarine were noticed either before or after the sinking of the Provence.

SERIOUS EXPLOSION NEAR PARIS

PARIS, March 4.—The detonation heard this morning in a northern part of Paris is now said to have been of a serious explosion, which occurred in a manufacturing establishment at Saint Denis, a Paris suburb.

Story in Detail of Capture Erzerum Reached Petrograd

Turkish Garrison of Inner Forts Made Feeble Resistance and Beat Hasty Retreat on Approach of the Russians

PETROGRAD, Feb. 22.—(Via London)—The first story in detail of the capture of Erzerum by the Russians, reached Petrograd semi-officially to-day. It shows complete co-operation of Russian troops over a wide area, which made useless resistance on the part of the Turks. Apparently the Turks realized the fall of Erzerum was inevitable, and withdrew most of their forces before the final onslaught, leaving the garrisons of the widely separated forts to their fate.

The campaign began to reach its climax in the last days of January. The troops of General P— from the north and those of General K— moved against the first line forts, under most severe weather conditions. The Russians dragged their artillery to the heights surrounding the fortresses, and when all was ready began to bombard forts Kara, Gundek, twenty miles, and fort Datan Gez, 15 miles northeast of Erzerum, preparatory to the bayonet assault.

On January 29, both forts capitulated. The taking of Datan Gez made a breach in the outer line defenses along the Deve Basin range in front of the city. The capture of Kara Gundek opened a direct passage through the Karabagas Pass to the city proper from the north-east.

Fort Tafta lies midway between these two fortresses. In a night attack on January 30, this fort was captured, leaving only Chaban Debe between the two armies operating from this quarter.

On February 30, the Russians began to storm the front line on the Bebe Doin heights. By evening all these positions were in Russian hands, permitting complete junction of the troops on the north-east.

The fall of this first line quickly decided the fate of the inner forts. Meanwhile the Palan Teken group of forts, seven miles to the south, had been surrounded on three sides.

The general assaults of the second line began without giving the men time for a rest. The five inner forts made only a feeble resistance. Their garrisons beat a hasty retreat into the city, and followed the bulk of the troops which were already on the roads leading westward.

Only the rear guard took part in the fighting of the last day. Signs that the evacuation was under way were observed immediately after the fall of the first.

It is thought possible the Turks will attempt to make a stand at the first favorable point, which is in the hills on the western edge of Erzerum Valley, eleven miles distant, but it is not regarded as possible that they have been able to erect any extensive fortifications there.

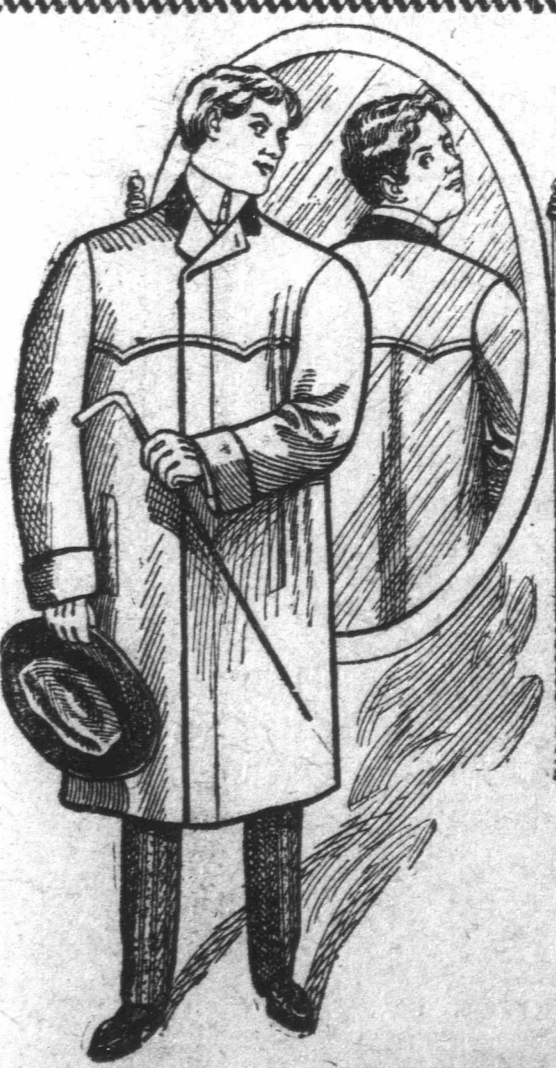
The Russians are hastily repairing the small damages done to the fortresses against a possible attempt of the Turks to retake them.

No news has been received of the fate of Ekved Pezvi Pasha, commander of the ninth corps, who was in charge of the defense of Erzerum.

It is reported that reinforcements from Thrace were on the way to Erzerum, but that they were five or six days distant when the city was surrendered. Artillery had been shipped by sea to Trebizond.

A telegram from Sebastopol reports the bombardment of Vitzeu, on the Black Sea, 15 miles east of Trebizond. The Turks are evacuating the town.

The reference in the foregoing to Ekved Pezvi Pasha, as the commander-in-chief of Erzerum before its surrender, apparently disposes of unofficial reports of several weeks ago, that the Turkish army there was in charge of the German Field Marshal Von Der Goltz or his companion Field Marshal Liman von Sanders.



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