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MONDAY MORNING MARCH 12 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

BAGDAD IS TAKEN

BRITISH CAPTURE IRLES IN ATTACK ON ANCRE RUSSIAN FORCES ENTER ANCIENT TURKISH CITY

General Maude's Troops, After Fighting to Within Three Miles of Baghdad, Rushed Turkish Positions on Sunday and Captured the City—Turk Reinforcements Unable to Arrive in Time to Prevent Its Fall.

London, March 11.—Gen. Frederick Stanley Maude, in command of the entente forces in Mesopotamia, telegraphed today the welcome news for the British of the occupation early this morning of the City of Baghdad, the chief Turkish city in Mesopotamia, and formerly the capital of the empire of the caliphs.

No details of the capture have yet been received, Gen. Maude's story of the operations carrying events only up to Saturday morning, when the British, after effecting a surprise crossing of the Tigris, had driven the Turks back to within three miles of Baghdad. It is evident, however, that the Turks have been unable to offer any serious resistance since the fall of Kut-el-Amara. They were said to be hastily summoning reinforcements from other theatres of the war where Turks were engaged, but the distances to be covered were so great that additional forces were unable to arrive in time to save the ancient city, which, after Mecca, occupies first place in the Mohammedan imagination.

The fall of Baghdad, besides ending German hopes of near eastern dominion based on a Berlin-Bagdad railway, will reverberate throughout the Mohammedan empires, and it was believed will more than rehabilitate British prestige in the far east, damaged by the earlier loss of Kut-el-Amara.

NEWS WELCOMED IN ENGLAND.
Perhaps no more welcome news could come at a time when the British public for the first time, owing to the submarine warfare, is beginning to feel the effects of the war in a greatly reduced food supply, besides being thrown into a fit of depression by the revelations of the Dardanelles report. Further news must be awaited before it is known whether Gen. Maude made important captures of Turkish troops or guns, either before or at Baghdad.

Apparently the occupation was effected without resistance and with only slight losses. Even if the Turks succeeded in extricating all their forces, the loss of Baghdad is a grave blow to them. Baghdad has been the base for all Turkish operations in Persia. Up to within a few days the Turks occupied about 30,000 square miles of Persian territory, but, with the Russians pressing them closely from Kirman-shah, as well as from the direction of Erzerum, indications point to a speedy junction of the British and Russian forces, which would soon compel the Turkish evacuation of Persian territory.

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS.
The official statement was issued on receipt of a telegram from Gen. Maude saying the British forces had occupied Baghdad early on Sunday morning. No details of the capture of the city were contained in Gen. Maude's despatch.

During the day the following official report was received concerning the operations for Baghdad, carrying them up to Saturday morning, when the Turks had been forced back to within three miles west and southwest of the city:

"Our forces engaged with the Turks on the Diale line the night of the eighth succeeded, despite the bright moonlight, in effecting a surprise crossing of the Diale and in establishing a strong post on the right bank thereof. Meanwhile, on the morning of the eighth, the Tigris having been bridged at some distance downstream, a British detachment marched up the right bank and found the enemy holding a position about six miles southwest of Baghdad.

"The enemy was driven from this position to another position two miles in the rear. During the night of the ninth a passage of the Diale was forced and our troops advanced some four miles toward Baghdad.

"During the ninth our forces on the right bank (Tigris) drove the enemy from his second position, bivouacking on the ground gained. This advantage, despite a blinding duststorm and a violent gale, was pressed on the morning of the tenth, the Turks being forced back to within three miles west and southwest of Baghdad."

TYPICAL TURKISH STATEMENT.
Violent attacks launched on Friday by British forces, 5000 strong, against the Turkish positions, on the southern bank of the Tigris River, near Baghdad, were repulsed with heavy losses, says an official Turkish statement. The portions of the British army remained about 800 yards in front of the Turkish positions, the others were compelled to retreat.

The text of the statement reads:
"Since yesterday activity on both banks of the Tigris has become violent. An attack by five enemy battalions against our positions on the southern bank was repulsed by our fire with heavy losses to the enemy. A portion of the enemy forces remained about 800 yards in front of our positions, while the remainder was compelled to retreat."

PICKED UP IN A TRENCH

Bible and Snapshot of Little Girl Found in Pte. Shaw's Haversack Returned to Toronto.

When Pte. Thomas Shaw went overseas he carried a Bible given him by Miss J. V. Cameron of 270 Sherbourne street. Inside the Bible he placed a snapshot of little Winnie Blackman, with whose grandparents he roomed at 28 Balmuto street. Shaw's haversack, containing his Bible with the little girl's picture, was picked up in a trench in France and given to Sgt.-Major W. M. Anderson, who has returned the Bible and snapshot to Miss Cameron, with the following letter:



WINNIE BLACKMAN

MANY PERISH IN INDIANA TORNADO

Havoc Created at Newcastle Where Death List May Reach Seventy

HOUSES SWEEPED AWAY
Three Hundred Homes Demolished—Loss Estimated at Million Dollars

Dayton, Ohio, March 11.—Telephone messages from Richmond, Ind., say from 85 to 70 persons were killed at Newcastle, Ind., this afternoon in a tornado that swept down Lincoln avenue demolishing houses and leaving terror and destruction in its path. One hundred homes were demolished. Relief work is now going on at Newcastle. The Richmond report says: "The tornado struck with terrific force at Newcastle, on the Chicago division of the Pennsylvania lines after passing thru Hagerstown, where two children were killed, three seriously injured and a large number of houses demolished or unroofed. The marshal at Hagerstown, in touch with Newcastle soon after the tornado struck there, reported to Richmond by telephone that the havoc wrought was very severe. His estimate of the dead is close to 70. The damage is estimated at \$1,000,000."

FOE BEATS RETREAT FROM IRLES REGION

French Attack Enemy Troops on Both Sides of Farm

Berlin, March 11, via Sayville.—After infantry fighting yesterday with British troops near Irles, on the Ancre River front, says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff, German rearward detachments, in accordance with the orders of their commanders, retired to the Teuton main positions, French attacks launched yesterday between the Rivers Ayre and Oise were without success. Renewed attacks against the German positions on Hill 135 and on both sides of Champagne farm, it is added, were singularly repulsed, notwithstanding the use by the French of strong forces and large supplies of ammunition. A supplementary official statement issued this evening by the German war department says: "On the Ancre River, between the Rivers Ayre and Oise, in the Champagne and on both sides of the River Meuse, the fire activity was lively to-day. From the eastern front nothing of importance was reported."

DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT IN SERIOUS CONDITION

Attack of Broncho-Pneumonia is Stated to be Causing Anxiety.

London, March 11.—Three bulletins were issued today concerning the condition of the Duchess of Connaught, who is suffering from an attack of broncho-pneumonia. The duchess passed a restless night and day, but her strength was maintained. The late-bulletin tonight says: "There is no change for the better." An earlier bulletin said the duchess had a bronchial seizure on February 13, and during her convalescence measles developed on Feb. 25, accompanied by considerable bronchial-pneumonia. Her condition, the announcement added, causes anxiety.

IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Louis Dickler, 250 East King Street, 10 years of age, lies in a critical condition in the Hospital for Sick Children, as the result of being hit on the head with a ball a little over a week ago. The hospital authorities expect they will have to operate on the boy.

RUSSIANS OCCUPY SAHNA

Take Town in Northwestern Persia and Pursue Retreating Turks in Direction of Bisitun.

Petrograd, March 11, via London.—Russian troops have occupied the Town of Sahna, in northwestern Persia, and are pursuing the retreating Turks in the direction of Bisitun, fifty miles south of Hamadan, according to an official statement issued today by the Russian war department. In Asia Minor the Turks took the offensive along the Sivas road, but were repulsed by the Russians. The text of the statement follows: "Caucasian front: The Turks attempted an offensive along the Sivas road, but were repulsed. As the result of fighting in the region of Hamadan our detachments occupied Sahna on March 7. Pursued by our troops the enemy, after stubborn resistance, retreated towards Bisitun. Munition stores in Sahna were captured by us."

German Surrender Wholesale at Irles

British Completely Upset Retirement Plans of Enemy by Attacking Two Hours Before Foe Intended Quitting Village.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press. British Headquarters in France, March 11, via London, March 12.—In the capture of the Village of Irles yesterday morning the British completely upset the German retirement plans on that section of the line. During the forward movement of the past fortnight the most carefully planned and skilfully executed of the recent phases of warfare on this front. The artillery preparation was terrific, and the German garrison was so demoralized at it and the suddenness of the infantry assault that they surrendered wholesale. The prisoners rendered wholeheartedly their plan to retire without suffering great casualties had been thwarted. All along the Ancre and Somme sectors the British guns were booming today. It was a steady roar.

Borden Visits Front Addresses Canadians

Premier of Dominion Tells Troops of Glorious Service in Past, of Warm Welcome Awaiting Them at Home.

Canadian headquarters in France, via London, March 11.—Canada's confidence in the valor of her sons who represent her in the war for her own security and for the maintenance of the British Empire, with unimpairing strength for safeguarding civilization against the assault of the latter-day barbarians, was the keynote of the last address made by Premier Borden at the Canadian front. Sir Robert was deeply stirred by the sights of the day. He had seen many thousands of men inured to the life in the trenches, hardened veterans, while yet, for the most part, boys or young men. He had seen a Nova Scotia battalion, of which he is honorary colonel, God-speed, he had observed attacking practice in which great attacking waves were being sent against the trenches, and having seen other evidences of the evolution of the weapon of destruction to the point of terrible effectiveness, the premier was in a position more fully to understand the resolution of the men who at their country's call go out into the open against them.

CARRANZA IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

Only Few Ballots Marked Against Him in Heavy Vote
Mexico City, March 11.—Gen. Venustiano Carranza was today elected President of Mexico by what is believed to have been the largest vote ever cast in the republic. Although the voters had the privilege of writing in or declaring any name they desired, General Carranza received all but a few scattered ballots. The estimated vote cast runs all the way from several hundred thousand to 1,000,000. Mexico will now have a constitutional president for the first time since 1911, when Francisco I. Madero received more than 300,000 votes. His election to the presidency marks the climax of the efforts of General Carranza, who took the field against Huerta Feb. 19, 1915, after Huerta had seized the executive power.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BRITISH forces occupied Baghdad early yesterday morning, according to a telegram from General Maude to the British war office. The fighting for the city took place on lines six miles to the south along the banks of the Diale. The Turks had prepared for the making of a strong stand, but the impetuosity of the British attack, combined with the skill of its direction, speedily drove them back and they had to uncover the city. As just the half announcement of its occupation has come from General Maude, details of the taking possession of the town were not available last night, but it is improbable that there was fighting in the suburbs.

It is improbable that the British forces stayed any time in Baghdad yesterday, for both sanitary reasons and for the necessity of pushing forward up the Tigris, in order to cut off the retreat of the Turks from Persia. The Russian official bulletin of yesterday records pursuing them still in the direction of Bisitun. If General Maude can capture or disperse a large portion of the Turk army in northern Mesopotamia in a few days, he will effect an important coup. The Turks attacked the Russians along the Sivas road in Asia Minor. It was a half-hearted affair and did not succeed. The enemy, perhaps, intended this attack as a demonstration to cover the sending of reinforcements to Mesopotamia. It must not remain outside of the allied calculations that the enemy may soon attempt to regain his lost positions both in Mesopotamia and in southern Palestine, or else fight a battle to prevent the allies from overrunning all of Mesopotamia and from seizing the Bagdad railway. The British are probably rapidly constructing their railway from Hazerah northward along the Tigris, to support their front and to link up with the Bagdad railway. Mr. Asquith announced some time ago in parliament that the British were constructing a railway in this theatre of the war.

The military advantages which accrue from the capture of Bagdad, are small, the political advantages are great. Bagdad, as the ancient seat of the

(Continued on page 2, columns 6 and 7)