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PRELUDE TO BIG OFFENSIVE FORCING GERMANS TO WEAKEN ALONG THE WHOLE WESTERN LINE

To Support the Wedge at St. Nihil--Meagre Reports From Carpathians--Russians Preparing for Big Move.

Are Descending the Southern Slopes of Carpathians Into Uzsook Valley—Austro-Germans Bringing up Reinforcements—Allied Fleet Bombarding Dardanelles From Gulf of Saros

London, April 12th.—The French offensive in the West, according to official reports from Paris, continues to make progress. Although the Germans reiterate that all French attacks have been repulsed, it is believed it is but the prelude to a big general effort in the West.

With two general staffs to direct the conflict, it is difficult to gauge the results of the fighting. Military experts here, however, express the conviction that the Germans will be compelled to send reinforcements to strengthen their wedge which penetrates at St. Nihil and which is being attacked on both flanks and that as soon as this movement begins the Allies will strike at the point thus weakened, perhaps along the whole line.

With operations in this district of France, those in the Carpathians divide interest, which is being barely satisfied with meagre official reports from various headquarters. The Russians like the French are apparently making progress in the capture of important points which are essential before a general forward movement can be undertaken. They are in possession of the whole principal chain of the Carpathians and at some points are descending the Southern slopes and are approaching, if they are not already in the Uzsook Valley.

Russians Attack German Positions

After Stubborn Bayonet Fight Capture Two Lines of Trenches—Six Hundred Prisoners Taken

Petrograd, April 11.—The Russian official statement says:—"To the west of the Niemen River at dawn on Friday we attacked the German position between Kalwary and Ludwinow. After a stubborn bayonet fight we captured two lines of trenches. We took six hundred prisoners, among them were several officers and eight militiamen. In the Carpathians, in the direction of Mezolaboroz, we took the offensive from positions near Czabozoz, and dislodged the enemy from Witrava. At Noliachow, we captured height 909, which means that the enemy has been driven back along the whole extent of the principal chain of the Carpathians. In the region of our offensive in the direction of Rostoki the enemy received considerable reinforcements on Thursday, and made violent counter-attacks. We repulsed them and captured a thousand prisoners, including twenty officers.

Another German Cruiser Interned

Kron Prinz Wilhelm Joins the Eitel Friedrich at New Port News—Had Sixty-one Prisoners on Board

Newport News, Va., April 11.—The German auxiliary cruiser Kron Prinz Wilhelm, another of the elusive German sea rovers, which have been destroying commerce since the outbreak of the war, arrived at Hampton Roads this morning.

Presumably the Crown Prinz Wilhelm comes here, like her sister ship, the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, for repairs and provisions, or possibly to be forced to intern for the remainder of the war.

British Steamer 'Harpalyce' Torpedoed

Feared That Twenty-six of Her Crew Have Been Drowned—Steamer Elizabeth Picked up Part of Crew

Rotterdam, April 11.—The British steamer Harpalyce, the first relief boat of New York State, and under charter to the Commission for the Relief in Belgium, has either been torpedoed or sunk by a mine in the North Sea.

The steamer Elizabeth, from Rotterdam, was torpedoed 7 miles N.E. of Noordhinder lightship, and brought them back to Rotterdam.

The steamer Constance Catherine picked up 5 men and took them to Neuve Waterweg. The steamer carried a crew of 53 men, 25 of whom, it is feared, have been drowned.

Captain Kelly Gets Recognition

King George Confers Order of the Bath on Naval Hero

London, April 12th.—King George has conferred the order of the Bath on Capt. Kelly of H. M. S. Gloucester in recognition of his services during the chase of the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, just after the outbreak of the war.

She had 61 prisoners, crews of the last two British steamers sunk by her. The Kron Prinz slipped out of New York on August 3rd last, since when she has sunk 12 British, 2 French and 1 Norwegian vessel, in her commerce-destroying cruises in the North and South Atlantic Oceans.

British and French Official Report

French Claim Successes at Les Eparges; Capture German Trenches, and Maxim Guns—Fierce Infantry Attacks in Champagne—Germans Moved Down by French Line—Mine Sweepers Operating in the Chanak Gut—Dardanelles

Paris, April 9.—The British troops repulsed a German attack during the night of 7th to 8th April. Between the Meuse and the Moselle we have made new progress. At Eparges we secured further gains and rebuilt recently-captured trenches, so that their parapets are now facing the enemy. These trenches were full of German corpses. At the end of the day we repulsed two counter-attacks. In Ailly Woods we captured more trenches and six maxims and two minenewfers, and repulsed two counter-attacks. About noon the enemy's counter-attacks ceased.

In Mortmare Woods, in spite of exceedingly fierce counter-attacks delivered by the enemy last night, we maintained all gains, following a new and brilliant attack.

The important position of Eparges, which dominates Woivre plains, and was very bravely defended by the enemy, is now completely in our possession. We have captured 1,500 metres of trenches, and this morning the Germans only occupied on the plateau two small isolated positions, which we captured this afternoon, taking 150 prisoners. We have thus secured one of the main objects of recent operations.

Further north in Ailly forest we have held on to all ground gained (200 metres on a 400 metre front) and repulsed three counter-attacks.

In Mortmare forest the Germans delivered fifteen attacks to recapture trenches taken from the yesterday. These fifteen attacks were repulsed, and piles of German corpses cover the ground.

In Belgium, near Drei Grachten, following an attack, the Germans occupy a part of trench on the left banks of the Yser.

In Champagne were local infantry attacks of a very fierce nature.

North of Beaussejour farms the Germans made an effort to recapture a part of the trenches lost last month. They were mown down by our fire, except on one point, where last night they succeeded in occupying one of our advanced positions, but to-day we counter-attacked, took back this position, repulsed the enemy and compelled him to retreat to his starting point with severe losses.

On the slope, south-east of Hartmannswillerkopf the number of prisoners taken the last few days is about 150.

The Minister of Marine published the following official report:—"In the Dardanelles, mine-sweeping operations in Chanak Gut continue every night. Mine-sweepers are protected by two large warships. Turkish resistance is slight and without effect.

Paris, April 10.—Additional reports received during the night say that the two attacks which enabled us to secure the sole trenches remained in German hands at the important position of Eparges, were characterized by terrible bayonet encounters.

Midnight.—Between the Meuse and the Moselle we have maintained all our gains and made further progress between the Orne and the Oise. No further fighting at Eparges. The entire position is now in our hands, and prisoners' statements show forth the importance of our success. Since the end of February the Germans had on that part of the front the 23rd division of reserve; then about the end of March, when the 23rd division was exhausted, the 10th Active division of the 5th Army Corps, composed of the best soldiers of the German Army, was brought forward.

It is this division who has just lost this regular fortress built by the Ger-

mans on Eparges spur. The German troops had received orders on several occasions to hold this position at any cost. They were impressed upon that this position was of great importance, and their General declared that to hold it not only would he sacrifice a division, but an army corps, and even, if necessary, one hundred thousand men.

The losses sustained by the Germans at Eparges during the last two months reach thirty thousand men. In Mortmare forest we captured another line of trenches and repulsed a counter-attack.

North of Regnierville we consolidated and even increased our gains. In Lorraine about half a company of our men who, during the night, had pushed forward to Bezanwara village, was surrounded by superior forces and captured.

Paris, April 11.—The following official statement regarding the progress of the campaign, was issued by the French War Office last night:—"Between the Meuse and the Moselle we have retained all ground gained, and have made fresh progress between the Orne and the Meuse. There have been no engagements at Les Eparges, the enemy has undertaken no action either with infantry or artillery, and the day passed quietly.

Paris, via London.—The French official statement issued this afternoon contains no military news. It merely says that during most of the entire day of April 10th snow, rain and wind prevailed. The official statement of the prisoners taken by the Allies at Les Eparges emphasizes the importance of the success there. The estimated German losses are thirty thousand in two months' fighting.

London, April 11 (official).—The French Government reports that the important position of Les Eparges is now completely in French hands, and that they have maintained all the ground gained in Bois Dailly and in Bois de Mortmare, also that mine-sweeping at the entrance of the Narrows at the inlet of Chanak has been continued every night, dragging vessels operating under the direction of two large ships. The opposition of the Turks is feeble and ineffective.

The Russian Government reports that the Russians hold the whole of the principal chain of the Carpathians for more than seventy miles from Regotow to Wolohate, except hill 909 south of Wolamichowa.—HARCOURT.

HIGH PRAISE FOR NAVAL BOYS

The Governor has received in personal correspondence a communication from Captain Corbett, H.M.C.S. "Niobe," regarding the men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve serving on board that ship.

These men have practically given no trouble and are almost unknown to the Captain as defaulters. They are most able and willing which speaks highly for their previous training. The two sea boats are manned entirely by them and they had constant work boarding ships in all weathers.

Captain Corbett says that he is prepared to back them against any boats' crew of the Imperial ships on the station.

French Steamer Fredie Franck Torpedoed In English Channel

Plymouth, April 12.—The French steamer Fredie Franck was torpedoed off Start Point, in the English Channel on Sunday, but was towed into Plymouth by Government tugs.

No lives were lost. It is expected that the Regular Gulf Service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney, will be resumed shortly. For the last two or three months the steamers have been making Louisburg their terminal, owing to North Sydney being frozen over.

Naval Engagement Off Scarborough

London, April 12.—Reports current here of heavy firing taking place at sea off Scarborough, indicating some kind of naval engagement in progress.

Brother Of The Pope Dead

London, April 12.—The Marquis Jules Bellachiessa, brother of Pope Benedict is dead at Genoa.

Big Army Landed

New York, April 12.—A British army 100,000 strong has been transported to France during the last six weeks, according to Thompson Setton, well-known Canadian author and naturalist, who returned to St. Louis from England.

They were shipped at Southampton and Portsmouth and landed in Havre and Bordeaux. One half of this army is already at the front and the great drive planned by the Allies in May is all prepared and may be launched before that date he said.

Stopped by Submarine

London, April 13.—Several Danish vessels report they were stopped and examined by a German submarine off Hornarey, on the West Coast of Jutland, according to the Telegraph's Copenhagen correspondent.

Turks Occupy City of Hamadan

Petrograd, April 12.—A telegram from Tiflis, Trans-Caucasia, says the Turks have occupied Hamadan, a city of Persia, south-west of Teheran. Hamadan is an entry port for commerce between Bagdad, Tabriz, Aspahan and Teheran and has a population of 25,000.

No Limit to Savagery Of Turkish Soldiers

Under Eye of Own Leaders Thousands Dead of Wounds or Disease in Unhappy Persia—Russians Inflict Severe Defeat on Turks

Tabriz, March 31.—London, April 1.—Preceding the reconquest by the Russians of Salmac Plains, in Azerbaijan Province, northwest of Urumiah, hundreds of native Christians were rounded up by the Turks in the village of Hatfedian, and massacred. Many of these were searched out from the homes of friendly Mohammedans, who tried to hide them.

The Russians on entering the village found 720 bodies, mostly naked and mutilated. The recovery of bodies from wells, pools, and ditches, and their burial, took 300 men busy for three days.

An Epidemic of Butchery

The wailing of women intensified the horror of the scene. Surviving widows who were able to identify the bodies of their husbands insisted upon digging graves and burying the bodies. Some of the victims had been shot. In other cases they were bound to ladders and their heads, protruding through, were hacked off. Eyes were gouged out and limbs chopped off.

A general massacre of the 10,000 of 15,000 Christians remaining in Urumiah is expected, unless it should be averted by orders from Constantinople.

Verbal messages from Urumiah confirm earlier reports that more than 800 persons already have been killed in that neighbourhood, and that more than 2,000 have died of disease. These messages confirm the reports of the maltreatment of the Rev. Dr. E. T. Allen, a Presbyterian minister at Urumiah.

Hostilities between Russian and Turkish forces in Persia have been resumed. On March 25 the Russians defeated the Turks in a sanguinary battle at Atkukur, north of Dilman, in northwestern Persia.

The Turks lost 12,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners, as well as many guns.

The Municipal Council are presenting their new charter to the Legislature tomorrow, and the storm signal will probably be ordered up as a consequent mark of respect.

Sorry State Disturbed Mexico

No Life for the Unfortunate Country Till the End of European War. When the Nations May Take Concerted Action

"The Sun," Baltimore, prints the following despatch from New Orleans: Archbishop Jose Maria Mora y del Rio, head of the Catholic Church in Mexico, sees little hope for his country until the end of the European war.

The venerable prelate, bowed down by the sufferings in the Southern Republic and aged beyond his years by the sorrows inflicted on him by the rebel hordes, sat in his apartment at the Ursuline Convent today and told the story of disaster to the Church in his field.

The Archbishop was informed that his story was being prepared for publication and that it was the desire to have him read and approve it before it was telegraphed from here. This he did, and expressed himself as sorry that for ecclesiastical reasons, he could not go more into details.

"All is with God," said he, folding his thin white hands above his breast, as if for a moment praying for his country and his people. "Thousands of brothers of the Church still are in Mexico with no hope of escape, and it is useless to appeal to the United States, for even if President Wilson took immediate action the Carranzistas, Villistas, Crozoquieta and other heads of bandits would exterminate all these priests and all the remaining Sisters of the faith before an American army could cross the Rio Grande. Until the European war is ended and the nations take concerted action against the barbarians who are misruling Mexico it is useless to ask temporal aid.

Only One Per Cent at War.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the 16,000,000 persons in Mexico are at peace; they do not want war; they have not mixed in any of the revolutions. All they want is an opportunity to live and work in security. Yet the remaining one per cent, barely 160,000 men under arms, have terrorized the country until in a fashion, they control it."

"But, Senor Archbishop, was asked "why do not the ninety-nine per cent arm themselves and restore peace to the country?" "Because," the prelate replied, "the one per cent has deprived the ninety-nine per cent of all their arms and made it impossible for them to obtain more. Everything with which restoration could be made has been confiscated, and if peace comes to Mexico it must come from the outside. Meanwhile the United States is selling arms to the one per cent of anarchists and Socialists who have destroyed the country."

COAL MINER AS A SOLDIER

Lord Kitchener Greatly Impressed With Their Value—Learns Within the Past Few Months What the United States Recognized Fifty Years Ago

A recent news item states that Lord Kitchener, the great British soldier, has in the course of his service become deeply impressed with the value of the Northumbrian coal miner as a military asset. His good opinion is founded on the work done in the field by the Northumbrian Fusiliers. He told Lord Grey that he wanted more men of the same class for the new forces which he is organizing.

It is more than probable that the Kaiser's generals, if asked, would speak equally as highly of the German recruits from Silesia and other German coal regions, and that General Joffre, the French commander, would as highly commend the French miners.

What Lord Kitchener has learned during the past 6 months regarding coal miners as soldiers was learned by the United States Government over 50 years ago.

In 1861, when the Civil War began, Schuylkill County, Pa., was the greatest coal producing country in the United States. In response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers to defend the national capital, among the first five companies to respond were two from Schuylkill County, which were composed largely of coal miners. These two companies, with the other three, are honorably known as the "First Defenders." As the war grew in magnitude, all the then developed coal fields of the North furnished coal miner volunteers, who acquitted themselves nobly; Schuylkill County during the Civil War period, which was two to one Democratic in politics, and therefore of opposite political faith to the administration, sent, in proportion to population, more men to defend the Union than any other country in the United States.

A English