

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Strong east and north-east winds and rather cool with rain in most places.

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"THE WHITE FEATHER"

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CANADIANS WINNING GLORY AT ST. ELOI FRENCH GAINS IN A VOCOURT WOOD

GERMANS FIND CANADIANS IMPENETRABLE BARRIER

Despite Desperate Attacks in Which Enemy Employed All Resources at His Command, Men From Dominion Held Ground — In Past Few Weeks Fighting Name of Canada Stands Out in Letters of Gold.

Ottawa, April 23.—Desperate fighting on the St. Eloi salient, participated by the three Ontario battalions, the 21st Eastern, 19th Central and 18th Western, occurred during the week of April 11-18. The Canadian general representative at the front in his weekly communique tells of battles under unprecedented difficult circumstances, in which the Canadians held their ground and in addition occupied a portion of an enemy trench.

Many instances of individual heroism are recounted. The communique follows:

Canadian General Headquarters in France, via London, April 23.—The struggle for position in front of St. Eloi was again the dominant interest on the Canadian front. The still weather of the previous week far into the day to high winds, brilliant sunshine then sky overcast with clouds. Occasional downpours of rain added to the burden of a water-logged soil.

By day and night the German guns pounded the narrow confines of the St. Eloi salient, the volume of their fire swelling every now and again into bombardments of extraordinary violence. Great shells tore fresh holes in the already mutilated ground, emitting the hissing of previous explosions. Shrapnel splashed over the fields. Bureting gas shells poisoned the air and fumes of sulphurous shells assailed the eyes.

Night Turned Into Day. At night innumerable German flares illuminated the darkness and continuous streams of bullets from rifles and machine guns crashed against our parapets or swept over them far into the country beyond. In the face of such conditions our men waged the fight, repelled enemy attacks, dug trenches and maintained their positions.

Under normal circumstances of trench warfare the tussle for so narrow a strip as a few hundred yards would have been quickly over, when after loss or capture the trench lines would have been speedily re-justed and new defences built. Observation and reconnaissance would soon have revealed the fresh dispositions of the enemy.

The extraordinary state of the terrain opposite St. Eloi has been chiefly responsible for the prolongation of the fighting. With the Germans overlooking the greater part of the area and with the ground sodden with water, the construction of new trenches was difficult. Only by slow and laborious effort could the desired result be achieved. With the damp earth ploughed into a veritable porridge and dented with countless pits and holes, with steamy vapors veiling the landscape and blotting from view all familiar landmarks, movement was infinitely hazardous and exhausting, accurate reconnaissance almost an impossibility.

In places even the hardest were baffled by the mud. At times even the most skilled mistook their bearings. Undaunted by the difficulties of their surroundings, our officers and men faced the situation with splendid courage and determination.

One night sections of the new German line were attacked and bombed by men of 18th Western Ontario, 19th Central Ontario and 21st Eastern Ontario Battalions. On our left the bombing parties were under the command of Lieut. B. O. Hooper, of the 18th Battalion and Lieut. C. H. Kerr, of the 19th Battalion, and were accompanied by a working party under Lieut. Lawson, of the 18th Battalion. The night was misty and progress over the broken ground was very slow. Lieut. Kerr acted as guide and eventually the position was reached close to the German lines. A slight lifting of the fog revealed a number of the enemy who at once hurled a shower of bombs in the direction of our men. Most of the bombs fell into the crater, on the edge of which our party was lying. Our men retaliated vigorously. The mist soon thickened and as there had been no opportunity for adequately reconnoitering the ground it was decided to abandon any further offensive action.

Meanwhile Lieut. Lawson had found the remains of an old trench a short distance to the rear and commenced to rebuild it. Although our bombing party were withdrawing at dawn, he remained in this advanced position with bombs carried out to him by his day, having been well supplied

BERLIN HAS DECIDED ON REPLY TO U. S?

Chancellor Back from Army Headquarters — Washington Expects Reply will be Before President by Saturday.

Berlin, April 23, via Copenhagen to London, April 24.—The imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, returned to Berlin this afternoon, which would seem to justify the assumption that the emperor's responsible leaders at general headquarters have finished consideration of the American note and reached a decision concerning Germany's reply.

What this reply will be is naturally unknown to any but the highest officials.

Washington, April 23.—Germany's reply to the American note demanding immediate abandonment of illegal and inhumane submarine warfare probably will be before President Wilson by Saturday. In the meantime, perhaps within forty-eight hours, Ambassador Gerard at Berlin is expected to be in a position accurately to forecast the contents of the document. It is stated authoritatively that the German embassy has no more information regarding the intentions of the Berlin government than has the state department.

Gerard and Von Jagow Confer. Berlin, April 23, via London.—James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, called on Foreign Minister Von Jagow this evening and was closeted with him for almost an hour. Their discussion was of an informative nature. Imperial Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg will return to Berlin tomorrow (Sunday) morning, but a reply to the American note need not be expected for several days, possibly not before Wednesday.

Situation Serious German Press Says. Berlin, April 23, via wireless to Sayville.—The newspapers in show ment on the American note says the Overseas News Agency today. "It stresses upon the seriousness of the situation. The prevailing tone of the comment, however, is one of calmness.

"All the newspapers unite in showing confidence in the German government, and express the conviction that it will act along the lines of national dignity and respect for neutral rights and international law as well as to vital German interests."

The covering squads could be placed in position, shells from our guns landing in his trenches caused the enemy to take alarm. Large numbers of bombs were thrown by the Germans, while the hostile artillery quickly concentrated on this section an intense bombardment, which lasted out the night. At the coming of dawn our party retired, succeeding with great difficulty and under heavy fire in carrying back its wounded.

Bombed Way Into German Trench. The attack was more successful. Parties of our 21st Battalion under Lieut. Brownlee and Lieut. Marks and Davidson bombed their way into a German trench, and although severely shelled by the enemy's guns and trench mortars blocked the trench at both ends and established bombing posts.

Sergei Major Edmunds, to whom leave had been granted to return to England in order to take up a commission, played a prominent part in the attack, and was seriously wounded. Private Bruce Blanchard, although wounded through the lung by a rifle bullet, continued to throw bombs at the enemy until his supply was exhausted. Sniper Joseph Zacharias from an advanced position used his rifle to pieces in his hands by the explosion of a German bomb. Undismayed by this occurrence Zacharias, the sniper, borrowed bombs from his comrades, and as Zacharias, the bomber, revenged himself on the enemy for the loss of his trusty rifle.

Another night the enemy made two attempts to drive the men of our 21st Battalion from the ground captured by them on the previous night. Each time his approach was detected by our sentries and his parties were driven back by our bombers.

Further to the left progress was made in the consolidation of our positions. Covering parties of our 18th and 20th Battalions engaged the attention of the enemy while digging was being carried on by other men of these battalions and detachments of our 2nd Pioneer Battalion under the direction of Lieut. Powell, of the Canadian Engineers.

The following night bombing attacks were delivered by the Germans on these works and a heavy artillery bombardment was also directed upon them. The enemy was everywhere re-

Italians Take 600 Metres Enemy Ground After Fierce Fight

Rome, via London, April 23.—The official communication from general headquarters issued today reads: "In the Tonale zone Saturday night the enemy attempted three successive attacks against our lines and were driven back with heavy losses.

"Artillery activity and enemy movements have been marked between the Lagarina and Sagina valleys. In the Upper Cordevolis enemy batteries of all calibres concentrated their fire on Col Di Lana without effect.

"Along the Upper and Middle Isère, the enemy has hampered the action of our artillery.

"On the Careso, east of Selz, our infantry yesterday supported by the artillery occupied, despite fierce resistance, strong trenches 300 metres in length. The enemy, having received reinforcements, made a violent counter-attack during the night, and on the second occasion succeeded in retaking part of the lost trenches.

"After a deadly hand-to-hand struggle, in which the enemy suffered heavy losses, we drove him out, capturing 123 prisoners, of whom six were officers. We also took two machine guns, 200 rifles, several flame projectors, and numerous cases of ammunition and bombs."

Russian Advance Checked Near Bitlis, Turk Report Says

Constantinople, April 23, via London April 23 (3:30 p. m.)—The Russians have met with a check in their operations in Southern Armenia, according to the official statement by the Turkish press office issued today. "The Russian advance has been checked near Bitlis, and driven back after an engagement to the east of Mush, losing heavily in both clashes with the Turks. The official statement says: "In the neighborhood of Bitlis, which were in the sector of Motki, south of Bitlis, were compelled to retreat toward Bitlis, fighting rear guard engagements. They left hundreds of dead."

"After four hours of fighting from Kozma mountain to the east of Mush, the enemy was repelled in an easterly direction."

"In engagements on Kop mountain, in the neighborhood of Height 3500, and as far as Ashlake, we stopped Russian attacks and by our counter-attacks drove the enemy from heights and slopes north of this mountain. The Russians lost heavily.

"In the Djerdzilik sector we stopped a hostile detachment which was trying to advance southward from Trebizond. Engagements are proceeding between our coast guard detachments and a Russian detachment landed at Piatama (about 10 miles west of Trebizond)."

"On the night of April 6, one of our aeroplanes attacked successfully the islands of Imbros and Tenedos, dropping bombs on the enemy's harbor installations and his camp.

"Elsewhere comparative quiet prevails."

Bomb Fell Near Czar. Berlin, April 23, via wireless to Sayville.—A narrow escape for Emperor Nicholas of Russia from death or serious injury by bombs dropped by an Austrian airman during a recent visit of the Emperor to a southern sector in Stockholm advised received by the Overseas News Agency.

"The Emperor was reviewing the troops in company with Gen. Brusiloff (commander of the Russian forces on the southwestern front), when suddenly an Austro-Hungarian Sler appeared and dropped numerous bombs which landed among the troops, who fled in wild disorder," says the news agency statement.

"The Emperor, according to the reports, was hurt and had a narrow escape, the incident causing him entirely to lose his self-possession. In consequence, the reports add, General Brusiloff was bitterly reproached and Gen. Ivanoff was recalled to the southwestern front headquarters."

The Russian official statement of April 14 told of an attack by a hostile alman upon Ivants, on the Dnieper river, in Galicia. Emperor Nicholas was reviewing troops at Ivants at the time of the attack, and, according to the statement, decorated with the fourth class Order of St. George a sentinel who had been wounded by bombs dropped by the aviator.

BRITISH LINE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RE-ESTABLISHED

King's Shropshire Light Infantry Win Back Last Trench Enemy Held on Ypres-Langemarck Road—Successful in Night Raid Southwest of Thiepval.

London, April 22.—The official communication on the campaign in France and Belgium issued today by the British war office follows: "Last night the King's Shropshire Light Infantry re-captured a trench on the Ypres-Langemarck road, which was lost the night of April 19. Our line there is completely re-established.

"Today there is artillery activity about Mametz, La Boisselle, Serre, Souchez, Culinchy, Wytschaete and Ypres. There was some mining activity near the Hohenzollern redoubt and north of Neve Chapelle."

SUCCESSFUL RAID NEAR THIEPVAL

The following official communication was issued tonight: "Last night we made a successful raid against the enemy's trenches southwest of Thiepval. Thirteen prisoners were captured and a number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy by our men bombing their dugouts. Our casualties were very slight.

"Mining activity continues in the Hohenzollern sector. Today there were artillery actions about Hebuterne, Neuville-St. Vaast, Souchez and Carency, and about the Ypres-Comines canal.

"Our artillery dispersed an enemy working party in front of St. Eloi this afternoon."

GERMANS HAVE USED THIRTY DIVISIONS IN VERDUN FIGHT

Battles of heavy proportions have been in progress in all the war theaters except the Balkans. Successes for the Entente Allies and the Teutonic allies have varied. Four vessels—an Italian steamer, a French bark and two British steamers—are reported to have been sunk by submarines. All their crews are believed to have been saved.

Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German chancellor, has returned to Berlin after a visit to army headquarters, where he discussed the American note to Germany concerning Germany's submarine warfare with the German leaders. The chancellor's early return is taken to indicate that Germany's reply has been formulated.

"On the Verdun front where for two months the Germans and French have been almost continuously in battle, the Germans, according to an estimate of the French war office, up to April 22, had used thirty divisions, or about 600,000 men in the fighting or in reinforcement which suffered heavy losses.

The Germans claim the capture of French trenches in the Verdun region southeast of Haucourt and west of Dead Man's Hill, while Paris records the taking of several German positions in the Avocourt wood. Hill 304 is again under the heavy bombardment of the Germans.

Artillery duels have everywhere featured the fighting in France and Belgium, being particularly severe on the Belgian sector between Nieupoort and Dixmude, and south of the Somme, where the French artillery has concentrated its fire on German trenches.

Trenches taken by the Germans from the British on the Langemarck-Ypres road, have been evacuated owing to floods, which made their consolidation impossible.

Sanguinary Fight on Carso Front. The Germans are still using their big guns against the Ikskull bridgehead on the Russian front and farther south have repulsed a Russian attack in the Lake Naroc region. The annihilations of a German scouting party near Lake Vyznosovkoye and the destruction of an Austrian post north of Courtorsk are told of in the Petrograd official communication. Ten German aeroplanes have bombed the Russian aviation station on Osel Island, in the gulf of Riga, at the entrance to the Baltic Sea.

The Italians and Austrians have fought a sanguinary engagement on the Carso front, near Selz, in which the Italians captured 360 metres of Austrian trenches and took a number of prisoners and a quantity of rifles and other war stores.

While the Russian report that in the Caucasus region near Achkala fifty miles west of Erzerum, they have captured an important sector of the Turkish position. Constantinople says that south of Bitlis the Turks have defeated the Russians and sent them in retreat toward Bitlis. In engagement east of Mush, the Russians were

again forced to retreat. An attempt of the Russians to debouch south from Trebizond was stopped by the Turks. Fighting is in progress between the Turks and a Russian detachment which landed on the Black Sea coast ten miles west of Trebizond.

The British relief corps which is endeavoring to lift the siege of Kut-el-Amara have made further futile efforts to advance along the Tigris river, their failure being attributed to the flooded conditions of the country.

Russian and German Airmen Clash. Berlin, via London, April 23.—The following official communication was issued today: "Ten German aeroplanes on Saturday attacked the Russian air station at Papenholm, on Osel Island, in the Gulf of Riga, and dropped 45 bombs. Very good effects were observed.

"A Russian aeroplane was compelled to land. All the German aeroplanes returned undamaged, despite a violent engagement.

Surprise Attack. Paris, April 23, 2:35 p. m.—The official communication issued today says: "West of the Vanquois the Germans tried during the course of the night to capture one of our machine guns which was particularly inconvenient to them. They were repulsed. Eight prisoners remained in our hands.

"West of the Meuse the enemy did not renew his attacks between the brook of Bethincourt, and Le Mort Homme. A surprise attack made by us in the wood of Avocourt enabled us to take several posts on the road and to make a few prisoners.

"To the east of the Meuse and in the Voivre region the artillery has been only intermittently active.

"The night was quiet on the other parts of the front."

Germans Blame It on Floods. Berlin, April 22.—German forces were compelled to evacuate newly won trenches on the Langemarck-Ypres road on account of high floods which made the consolidation of the positions impossible, according to the statement issued today by the German war office.

A hand grenade attack made by the British south of St. Eloi was repulsed. French trenches on the left bank of the Meuse, southeast of Haucourt and west of Dead Man's Hill were captured.

The text of the statement follows: "Western theatre: We were compelled to evacuate our newly won trenches on the Langemarck-Ypres road on account of high floods which made their consolidation impossible.

"A British hand grenade attack made toward evening south of St. Eloi was repulsed. British patrols, which advanced in the night against our line on both sides of the Chapuame-Albert high road after preparation by strong artillery fire, were repulsed.

(Continued on page 2)

LOYD GEORGE TO QUIT UNLESS ATTACKS CEASE

Reynolds Weekly Declares Munitions Minister Was on Verge of Resigning When Carson Left Cabinet.

London, April 23.—Reynolds' Weekly says that Lloyd George will unhesitatingly resign if the persistent Liberal attacks upon him continue, especially as his insistence in getting his own way on compulsion left much bitterness among certain of his colleagues. The account adds that that for the first time the public will learn some facts underlying the government's terrible blunders, including the disastrous Balkan development and responsibility for the Daridanelles tragedy. The Weekly concludes with the declaration that it is not a secret among his friends that Lloyd George was on the point of resigning when Sir Edward Carson resigned.

SAW FRENCH WARSHIP SINK HUN SUBMARINE

American Oil Tanker at Halifax Brings Story of Sharp, but Brief Battle Between Destroyer and U-Boat.

Halifax, April 23.—The American oil tanker Westwego, from Rouen, France, for New Orleans, put in here today for fuel, and her officers reported that soon after leaving Rouen they saw a French destroyer sink a German submarine after a short sharp battle.

DENY "U" BOAT WHICH SANK SUSSEX WAS CAPTURED

Berlin, Friday, April 21. (Delayed via wireless to Sayville)—"The story that the French captured a German submarine which had sunk the steamer Sussex is absolutely untrue," said a leading personage of the admiralty staff today. It was trapped some time after the Sussex episode and had nothing to do with the Sussex.

It was officially announced by French admiralty on April 5, that a German submarine was sunk on that day by a squadron of French and British warships, the crew of the submarine being captured.

News despatches from Paris on April 19, said it had been learned that it was the German submarine U-25, which was sunk by the French and British, and that it was the crew of this undersea boat that had given the information concerning the identity of the submarine reported to have torpedoed the cross-channel steamer.

LT.-COL. BRUCE DIES SUDDENLY

Toronto, April 23.—Lieut.-Col. Geo. W. Bruce, of the 1st Arm of Coldwell, Bruce and Coleman, Brandon, and commanding officer of the 181st Battalion, died suddenly on the C. P. R. train at Chapeau on his way to Toronto, accompanied by his wife. The remains arrived in this city today. He will be buried in Toronto with full military honors.

TORONTO WILL HAVE SPECIAL BUTTON FOR REJECTED RECRUITS

Toronto, April 23.—On Sunday next rejected men will be presented by the recruiting depot with a button and a certificate which will be evidence that the owner offered himself as a soldier and was rejected. The buttons are issued for the purpose of facilitating recruiting. The letters "A. R." (applied and rejected) and printed in red upon the button, with the numbers underneath.

SCHOONER WAPITA RESCUED FROM ICE

Charlottetown, April 23.—Today the str. Prince Edward Island went to the rescue of schooner Wapita drifting about in the ice five miles from Cape Egmont, and towed her safely to Summerside harbor. This schooner which is owned by Captain Giffa, of Isaac's Harbor, went ashore over a year ago in Egmont Bay. She was jacked up on the ice and hauled out some distance, then the ice moved out carrying her with it. But for the timely arrival of the steamer she would probably have come to grief again.

Straits are still full of ice and prospects are not bright for early opening of Summerside and Tormentine routes.

pulsed and in the intervals between shelling our working parties improved our trenches. Since that time the enemy has made several other determined attacks, but has met with no success.

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