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FAIR AND MILD

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## HEAVY TEUTON STORM ABOUT READY TO BREAK IN PICARDY

### SURE SIGN OF AN ONSLAUGHT SOON ON WEST FRONT

Never Failing Indication of Pending Attack Can Be Found in Activity of Enemy's Aviators Who Have Appeared in Flocks All Along the Battle Lines in France and Flanders.

Enemy Makes Abortive Raids on Paris and Vicinity in Hope of Demoralizing Communications Behind Allied Line and Force French to Withdraw Airplanes to Protect Capital.

By Arthur S. Draper

(Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

London, May 17.—The surest sign of the imminence of a German attack can be found in the activity of the enemy's aviators. The fine weather of the last two days has brought them out in flocks and from all parts of the battle zone come reports of aerial fights.

Both sides have been making many nocturnal raids both near the lines and in the back areas. Abortive raids on Paris are a part of the enemy's scheme to demoralize communications behind the line and force the French to withdraw their airplanes for the protection of the capital.

Today's reports show that there have been artillery duels at many points. The frequency with which the enemy's guns bombarded the line between Arras and Albert confirms the belief that the German strategy includes a drive toward Doullens, one of the five key centers on the British front.

Foremost in Ludendorff's scheme is undoubtedly the capture of Ypres, because of the moral effect. Next in importance is the capture of Amiens. That he will make a frontal attack on either seems unlikely. It is possible that the northern push will consist of two drives, on the north, and on the south of that ghostlike town. One blow will be aimed at the junction of the Belgian and British lines and the other at the union of the British and French forces.

German Comment.

Similarly the southern front may see attacks both north and south of Amiens. Regarding the defenses at Ypres the military critic of the semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung writes:

"Ypres is being most obstinately and valiantly defended by the enemy. General Plumer doesn't entertain any idea of voluntary retreat or of relinquishing the town, the retention of which, according to the unanimous opinion of all neutral military experts, is a tactical and even a strategic mistake, and of this fact the English General is probably aware.

"For the English army, however, Ypres unlike any other town, in its name alone means everything. Its loss would have an extraordinary effect all over the world and these places which have not realized that English defeats have taken place would realize it then.

"The question, therefore, of the most unyielding defense of Ypres has become a question of prestige and the town will be held with true British stubbornness, even though it costs thousands of lives.

Plumer Decided.

"The fortifications of the town and its immediate neighborhood show that General Plumer is quite decided on this point. Numerous rows of concrete fire trenches lie one behind the other in full view of our observers at H&H 89.

"Everywhere along the whole front, trenches constructed for previous battles have fallen in. Here, however, in the neighborhood of Ypres, they have been carefully preserved, cemented, and fitted with all that modern technique could suggest. But behind them lies Ypres,—once a flourishing city, but now only a heap of ruins—but a heap where every foot of ground means a

fortification. The English have understood the art of fitting numerous solidly built vault-like cellars of the town with machine guns and mine throwers and providing them with loopholes, thus making a redoubt of every single cellar.

"It would serve no real purpose if our high command were to launch our brave troops against these devices simply in order to announce the taking of Ypres a few days sooner. An enemy in a position between our wings always has been crushed and finally squeezed out.

Must Be Evacuated.

"Ypres must sooner or later be evacuated by the enemy as his natural line, since we took Mont Kemmel, lies much farther to the north, somewhere between Bixshote, Poperinghe and Cassel.

"While naturally the chief interest centers on the developments in France, the possibilities of the Italian front must not be overlooked. Late spring finds the weather ideal for operations along the Piave and in the mountains. The Italians have used the winter months to strengthen their positions, but though they have regarded the future confidently, they expect the Austrians to deal some heavy blows in the coming weeks."

The enemy's airmen are becoming increasingly active and his guns are now expending ammunition lavishly. The Austrians are again using all their resources in the dissemination of propaganda in the hope of breaking the morale of the Italian peasant soldiers. If an Austrian attack does not synchronize with the German effort, it is certain that it will not be long delayed. June is likely to prove the liveliest fighting month of the whole war. Practically the only front which doesn't offer possibilities of important developments is Mesopotamia, and here the fierce heat is likely to shut down operations.

Clay in the Hands of the Modeler.

—By Webster.



### GERMANS SEIZE THE RUSSIAN WARSHIPS

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, May 17.—The latest reports from Russia confirm the report that a large part of the Russian Black Sea fleet has fallen into German hands.

The Dreadnoughts so far appear to have escaped seizure, but the number of smaller craft captured is of sufficient importance to affect the naval equilibrium in the Mediterranean.

It is believed that as quickly as possible Germany will place the vessels in commission with the Dardanelles

forces. Some delay may occur in manning the new boats, but probably this will be done by the Turks with not more than a sprinkling of Germans. Most of the boats were captured by the Germans when they took Sebastopol and are believed to be in fairly good condition.

Threatening Situation.

The Mediterranean situation is likely now to demand further effort by the Allies. Also more attention will be required by the German submarine activities in Mediterranean waters where the U-boats cannot, for several reasons, be so easily dealt with as in

some waters. Unfortunately the losses in the Mediterranean have been much higher relatively than those in other waters because the enemy is nearer his bases and can concentrate in the comparatively narrow channel, while the difficulties of defense are considerably greater.

The general situation has grown more encouraging in the recent period of good weather which has given the allied attacking forces many opportunities to sink U-boats. The attacks on Ostend and Zeebrugge are already bearing fruit, while the mine field in the North Sea is serving the purpose for which it was intended.

### RUSSIAN BOLSHEVIK TROOPS TAKE BAKU

Constantinople, May 17, via Amsterdam.—Russian Bolshevik troops, reinforced from Turkestan and Astrakhan, have recaptured the port of Baku on the Caspian Sea. The Bolshevik forces crossed the Caspian Sea on Russian gunboats and attacked the Mussulmans, who, owing to lack of defence, were forced to abandon the town. The Bolshevik troops are vigorously continuing their attacks.

Karl Goes to Turkey. Washington, May 17.—A despatch from Switzerland through diplomatic channels today says Emperor Charles of Austria and the Empress Zita left yesterday for Sofia on their way to Constantinople where they are to visit the King of Bulgaria and the Sultan. In the party are several high person-

ages, notable Count Burian, minister of foreign affairs.

Japan May Act.

London, May 17.—The London press in general is urging the necessity of allied intervention of a prompt nature if what is alluded to as the rapid strengthening of German grip on the country is to be successfully combated. The newspapers refer to Lord Robert Cecil's House of Commons remarks and the accumulating indications of the inability or unwillingness of the Bolsheviks to resist the German penetration, and in some instances the advocates of intervention reiterate the earlier pleas for allowing Japan to act. The insistence upon Japan's disinterestedness is renewed, as is Japanese loyalty to the Allies.

### AMERICANS ARE IN FLANDERS

They Are Now Located Along the Line from Merville to Ypres.

American troops are awaiting the time when they will be thrown into battle on an entirely new part of the battlefield in France. This time they are close behind the British positions in Flanders. The announcement that the Stars and Stripes are waving with

the British Union Jack and the French tricolor on this battle field said that the Americans were 'completing their training in the area occupied by the troops which are blocking the path of the Germans to the channel ports,' which may indicate that somewhere along the line from Merville to Ypres is the point where General Pershing's men will once more strike the Germans.

FATHER FISET HERE.

Rev. Father Fiset, C. S. C. St. Joseph's University, is a visitor in the city. He is here in connection with the forty hours devotion in St. John's Baptist Church, and is a guest of Rev. F. J. McMurray.

### ARE ROUNDING UP THE SLACKERS UP NORTH

Eight Young Men Captured at Neguac and Police After Others.

Special to The Standard.

Chatham, May 17.—Eight young rascals were brought up on the steamer Miramichi today from Neguac by Dominion Policemen Reed and Thibodeau and lodged in the lockup. These young men failed to register. Some of them had been in the woods at the time of registration and did not make any attempt to comply with the law. They came along with the officers civilly. A systematic combing of the country districts is now on and it is expected that within the next few days a considerable number of young men will be gathered in.

A PETROLIA SOLDIER.

J. J. Sands, of Petrolia, Ontario is a visitor in the city. He saw service at the front and went over in a Western unit in the early days of war. He was reticent regarding the battles he was through but stated he saw some things. Regarding the outcome he felt that the Allies would win, but yet had a mighty task.

He referred to the city, and so many men in uniform, and thought St. John's a patriotic city. He leaves this morning for Montreal en route to his home.

HAS BEEN EXCHANGED.

After spending nearly three years as a prisoner in Germany, Sergt. J. G. Emalle, of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, has been exchanged and sent to Holland. In a letter to a friend in the city he gives highest praise to Canadian Red Cross for parcels sent by this body to him and other prisoners.

### ENEMY PREPARED TO RESUME HIS TERRIFIC DRIVE

There is Every Indication that Storm is Breaking —After Comparative Tranquility of Past Two Weeks There Are Plenty of Signs That Enemy is About to Resume His Smashing Tactics.

Exactly Where Blow Will Fall is Still an Enigma, Although Allied Military Heads Are Ready to Meet Almost Any Emergency—Bravery of Gallant Americans.

Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.

(By Wilbur Forrest.)

With American Forces in Picardy.

May 17.—There is every indication today that the storm is breaking. After the comparative tranquility of the past two weeks there are plenty of signs that the enemy is preparing to resume his smashing tactics. Exactly where the blow will fall first must remain an enigma to the outside world, although the allied military heads have now made preparations to meet almost any emergency.

It is confirmed today that the enemy has nearly eighty divisions (nearly 1,000,000 men) now which have rested for the past fortnight and which are ready for a resumption of action.

While the comparatively small American sector south of the Somme in Picardy is not indicative of the entire situation, yet the renewed activity here is significant. On Tuesday and Wednesday the activity was far below normal except in the air, where the skies teemed with the throb of the hawk-like airplanes, and where both sides were watching carefully from their saucers.

Wednesday night the activity below recommenced, the guns thundering all night long. The enemy guns nervously bargaged here and there, and in some cases threw shells into the Allies' rear.

Heavy Barrage.

At four o'clock Thursday morning the American batteries laid down a heavy barrage on our right, where the enemy attempted a heavy raid. This raid was stopped dead. Our counter-battery work during the night is known to have accounted for many of

the enemy's guns, the Franco-American fire being aided by night airplane work. Our observation of the villages in the enemy's immediate rear shows an increasing presence of enemy troops.

Among more than thirty citations in the French army orders for American bravery, Major Richard B. Paddock of the signal corps, leads the list. On the night of May 1 Major Paddock, finding his men exhausted with the hard work, crawled out himself and unaided repaired some broken telephone wires under an extremely heavy enemy fire. Major Paddock was wounded, but he successfully accomplished his mission.

Other Brave Men.

Corporal Thomas H. Carroll, while a member of an American patrol in No Man's Land, which was rushed by a superior enemy patrol, opened fire alone on the enemy at fifteen yards and although severely wounded, coolly continued firing while the patrol safely retired.

Private Lowell L. Leythan, while patrolling with a companion, encountered three enemy soldiers in No Man's Land. In the first brush Leythan's companion was killed and one enemy was killed and another wounded. Leythan then bayoneted the remaining German and attempted to carry the body of his companion back to our lines, but was forced to abandon the corpse under the heaviest fire.

Private Oscar Griffiths of the Medical Corps, defied heavy enemy fire to assist a wounded man by dressing his wounds although he was wounded himself.

These are only a few outstanding cases of the bravery displayed by Americans in the hottest sector yet held by American troops.

### GREAT BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES CLOSER THAN EVER

Important Address in House of Commons on Peace Question and Russian Problem Puts Both Countries in Complete Accord — Moderates Are Greatly Encouraged.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special Cable to the N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, May 17.—Lord Robert Cecil made a valuable contribution to the debate in the House of Commons yesterday when he said that his recent references to the enemy's peace offensive were not intended to mean that any offer made by Germany would be rejected.

Since he gave the interview, Lord Robert has been severely criticized by the British press, and therefore in the debate he was careful to disclaim the interpretation which had been put upon his words.

Important Statement.

Another important statement made

by the under secretary was that Britain had no quarrel with the Bolsheviks because they were Bolsheviks but that Britain's chief desire was to see Russia preserved as an ally country.

This represents another change in the government's policy, and an acceptance of President Wilson's attitude toward Russia. It represents undoubtedly the beginning of diplomatic exchanges with Russia, and it may lead to the return of Great Britain's ambassador to Russia. The British moderates consider yesterday's debate the most encouraging in several months in that it served to link up Britain and America stronger than ever.