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French Re-Capture Caillette Wood and Vaux But Retire West of Meuse River To New Line

FRENCH GAIN AND LOSE AT VERDUN; RUSSIANS REPORT NEW VICTORIES

Paris, April 3—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads as follows:

"Between Soissons and Rheims we carried out concentrated fire against the German organizations north of the Butte Wood and Mount Sapigneul.

"In the Argonne our batteries violently bombarded the west corner of the Avocourt wood. An enemy blockhouse was destroyed, and a munitions depot blown up.

"West of the Meuse the Germans launched yesterday, at the end of the day, a vigorous attack between Haucourt and Bethincourt, against our positions on the north bank of the Forges brook, which we had evacuated, withdrawing to the south bank in the night of March 31-April 1, without the enemy perceiving it. Surprised by a violent fire directed from our new positions, and a flanking fire from Bethincourt, the enemy forces suffered heavy losses without having been able to fight.

"Today the bombardment was quite violent in the region of Bois Bourrus, but there was no infantry action.

"East of the Meuse our counter-attacks developed success. In the course of the day we drove back the enemy as far as the northern outskirts of the Caillette wood, and to the north of the Vaux pond. A last counter-attack, particularly spirited, enabled us to re-occupy the west part of the village of Vaux, which we had evacuated.

"In retaliation for the bombardment of Dunkirk by a Zeppelin last night, thirty-one Allied aeroplanes dropped on the enemy cantonments at Keyem, Eessen, Terrest, and Houthulst eighty-three shells of large calibre. Last night one of our squadrons bombed the station at Conflans.

"Today numerous aerial combats were fought with success in the region of Verdun. Our aviators brought down four German aeroplanes; other enemy machines took to flight or were forced to land."

The Belgian official communication reads:

"There was slight artillery activity. In reprisal for the bombardment of Dunkirk by a Zeppelin, our aeroplanes, in concert with French aeroplanes, bombarded enemy cantonments."

British Capture Crater.

London, April 3, 11.18 p.m.—The British official communication issued today says:

"Yesterday one of our aviators shot down a German machine in the neighborhood of Lens. Another aviator attacked and drove off five hostile machines after a close combat, with two of them.

"This morning early at St. Eloi we attacked a crater which had been held by the Germans since March 30. The crater was captured and our line was established beyond it. We took eighty-four prisoners, including four officers.

"The artillery on obth sides has been active in this neighborhood today."

Gusts of Artillery Not Effective.

Petrograd, via London, April 3—The Russian war office communication issued today says:

"After ninety minutes preparation by gusts of heavy and light artillery the Germans attacked the bridgehead at Ikskull, but were repulsed. In the region of Dvinsk and south of it there have been artillery duels. There has been great activity by the enemy artillery on many sectors.

"During the German offensive described yesterday in the region north of Baranovichi station the enemy fired explosive bullets. In the region of Liakovitchi on Sunday morning a considerable body of Germans, having crossed the Shara river, launched an attack on our posts, but were repulsed.

"There has been great activity by the enemy aviators in the Peliessie region. The floods continue.

"Caucasus front: In the course of our offensive we passed the watershed of the Upper Tchoruk river, and seized strongly fortified mountain positions 10,000 feet above sea level, taking a company of Turks prisoner. In the course of the pursuit of the enemy in the region of the Sourbkarpet convent, we captured a Turkish camp with tents and shelters, and a store of arms."

Italians Dominate Valley; Air Raids.

Rome, April 3, via London, April 4—The following official communication from headquarters was issued today:

"Along the whole front from the Lagarina Valley to the Sugana Valley artillery fire continued Saturday and Sunday with increasing intensity. Our observers brought news of important troop movements, which our artillery broke up.

"Enemy airmen, attempting frequent reconnaissances of our lines, were kept at a great height by our anti-aircraft artillery and were finally put to flight by our aviators.

"In the valley of the Cismon our advanced posts attacked and pushed back an Austrian detachment in the vicinity of Malga Lonz. At San Pellegrino Sunday night we repulsed an enemy attack.

"In the Cristallo zone an enemy battery opened a violent fire on our new positions on Rauchkofel. We silenced it. Our infantry increased its recent conquests, occupying the summit of Hill 1979, dominating the valley of Cristallo.

"During the whole day along the Isonzo front there was intense artillery action on both sides, more violent on the heights northwest of Gorizia.

"On Saturday night one of our dirigibles, despite the high winds, succeeded in reaching the railway junction at Opicina, north of Trieste, on which it dropped 300 kilograms of high explosives. Notwithstanding the fire of numerous enemy batteries, the airship returned safely.

"This morning six Caproni aeroplanes made a daring raid on Adelsberg, an important railway centre and the headquarters of the high Austrian command, on which it dropped forty bombs, starting large fires. Our airmen, attacked by enemy aviators, whom they repulsed, returned unharmed."

German Statement Agrees for Once.

Berlin, April 3, via London, 8.30 p.m.—All the French positions north of Forges brook, between Haucourt and Bethincourt, west of the Meuse, in the region northwest of Verdun, are in German hands, the war office announced today.

The text of the statement is as follows:

"Wetsern theatre: On the left bank of the Meuse all the enemy's position's north of the brook of Forges, between Haucourt and Bethincourt, are in our hands.

"Southwest and south of Fort Douaumont our troops engaged in battle with troops holding the French trenches and points of support.

"Eastern theatre: Bombs were dropped by squardons of German aeroplanes on the railway stations at Pogorjelzy and Horodzieja, on the line to Minsk (Russian front), and on the camp at Ostrowki, south of Mir. Bombs also were dropped on railway establishments at Minsk by one of our airships.

"Balkan theatre: There is nothing to report.

"Airship movements: Army and naval airships during the night attacked docks at London and other important military points on the English east coast, and also Dunkirk."

This the Hospital Ship.

Berlin, April 3, by wireless to Sayville—A 12,000 ton Russian transport, with troops and war materials aboard, was sunk by a Turkish submarine on March 30, the Turkish war office announced today.

The statement follows:

"The enemy's endeavors to check the advance of Turkish troops in the Tchoruk valley failed.

"Turkish submarines on March 30

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WAR SUMMARY

French Withdraw Lines West of Meuse But Recapture Ground About Vaux

Propaganda Reports of Strengthened Turkish Forces Refuted by Russian Statement--A "Transport" Which Was a Hospital Ship.

Having straightened out their line by occupying all French positions north of the Forges brook between Haucourt and Bethincourt, northwest of Verdun, the Germans are now engaged in shelling the region of the Bourrus wood, some five miles northwest of the fortress.

East of the Meuse, around Vaux, there has been considerable fighting between the French and the Germans, in which the French were victorious in driving back the Teutons to the northern outskirts of the Caillette wood and in re-occupying the western part of the village of Vaux, which they had previously evacuated.

The occupation by the Germans of the Haucourt-Bethincourt front followed a vigorous attack, in which, however, the Germans met no foe, the French having evacuated their positions at night without the Germans observing the movement. From their new positions south of the Forges brook and at Bethincourt, the French poured a direct and flanking fire into the attacking Germans, who suffered heavy casualties.

FRENCH AIR RAIDS.

Along the remainder of the front artillery bombardments have predominated, although there have been aerial combats near Verdun in which the Germans lost four aeroplanes, and aerial raids by the French on various German cantonments in Belgium.

Artillery duels between the Russians and Germans continue on the eastern front. An attack by the Germans against the bridgehead at Ikskull was repulsed by the Russians. The usual bombardments are in progress on the Austro-Italian line.

Constantinople reports that the Turks, strongly reinforced, have checked the Russian offensive in the Caucasus region, and that the Ottoman forces have made advances in the Tchoruk valley. Petrograd, however, asserts that the Russians have seized heavily fortified Turkish positions at an altitude of 10,000 feet on the Upper Tchoruk, and farther south have captured a Turkish position and dispersed Turkish cavalry detachments.

In Arabia, according to Constantinople, the British near Sheikh Osman have been driven from fortified positions with heavy casualties, and forced to retreat.

The sinking by a Turkish submarine in the Black Sea on March 30 of a 12,000 ton Russian transport with troops aboard, and of two other vessels on March 31, are reported by the Turkish war office. It was on March 30 that the Russian hospital ship Portugal was torpedoed and sunk in the Black Sea.

MAYOR MARTIN RE-ELECTED IN MONTREAL BY 10,000 MAJORITY

McDonald Second Man With Lapointe Poor Third--Villeneuve and Ross New Controllers

Montreal, April 3—Mayor Martin, M. P., was re-elected to the chief magistracy of Montreal at the biennial municipal elections today by almost 10,000 votes more than his nearest opponent, Controller Duncan McDonald, and by more than 16,000 in excess of his second opponent, Ald. L. A. Lapointe, M. P. The figures are:

Martin, 32,264; McDonald, 22,454; Lapointe, 15,744.

For the board of control Eugene W. Villeneuve led by a handsome margin, he receiving 31,209 votes. Andrew G. Ross, 17,784, was the other successful candidate for the board, there being only two vacancies to be filled, Controllers Aney and Cote having been re-elected for two years by a recent drawing of lots.

A feature of the aldermanic contests was that instead of thirty-one aldermen being elected, as formerly, only twenty were required to complete the complement of the city council, as per a recent act of the Quebec legislature.

SIX ZEPPELINS IN SUNDAY NIGHT RAID ON BRITAIN

Ten Killed, Eleven Injured in Scotland, But None in English Counties

GERMAN REPORTS DECLARED FANCIFUL

Story of Damage to Docks, Furnaces and Factories Denied—Anti-Aircrart Artillery Prevented Raiders from Reaching Any Definite Objective.

London, April 3, 3.55 p.m.—Ten persons were killed and eleven injured in Scotland in Sunday night's Zeppelin raid, it was officially announced this afternoon. There were no casualties in England.

The official statement says:

"It appears that altogether six Zeppelins took part in the raids of last night. Three raided southeast counties of Scotland, one the northeast coast of England, the remaining two the eastern counties of England.

"The vessels which raided Scotland crossed the coast at 9 p.m., and 10.15 p. m. respectively, and cruised over in southeastern counties of Scotland until about 1.10 a.m. Their course gave no indication of any special locality for attack, but thirty-six explosive and seventeen incendiary bombs were dropped on various places, damaging some hotels and dwelling houses.

Following are the casualties which are reported at present in Scotland:

Killed—Seven men, three children. Total, ten.

Injured—Five men, two women and four children. Total eleven.

"One vessel visited the northeast coast and dropped twenty-two explosive and fifteen incendiary bombs. The two remaining ships crossed the English coast about 10.15 p.m. and cruised over the eastern coast until about 1 a. m. They were both engaged at various times by anti-aircraft artillery, and appear to have been prevented by this means from selecting any definite locality as their objective. Thirty-three explosive and sixty-five incendiary bombs were dropped by the two vessels. As far as has been ascertained, no casualties were caused in England."

Imaginative Inexactitudes.

London, April 3, 8.35 p.m.—The Wireless Press, in giving out the German official statement received by it today from Berlin, adds this footnote:

"Regarding the German official statements of the Zeppelin air raids of Saturday and Sunday we are officially informed that they are examples of the imaginative inexactitudes characteristic of these messages."

This German statement follows:

"For the third time a German airship squadron attacked the English east coast on the night of April 2-3, this time on the northern part. Explosive and incendiary bombs were thrown with very good success in Edinburgh and Leith, dock establishments on the Firth of Forth and at Newcastle, and important shipbuilding works, furnaces and factories on the Tyne river.

"There were numerous fires and violent explosions, with extensive demonstrations. One battery near Newcastle was silenced.

"Although shelled heavily, all the airships returned safely."

One More Dream.

Berlin, April 3, by wireless to Sayville—The Overseas News Agency says:

"The Cologne Gazette has obtained reports from reliable sources that at about the middle of February a British armored cruiser of the County class struck a mine and sank. It is supposed the lost cruiser was the Donegal."

This statement is absolutely denied by the British admiralty.

Damage Mostly to Residences.

London, April 3, 7.12 p.m.—A Scottish correspondent in a despatch concerning Sunday night's air said, says:

"Scotland had its first experience with a Zeppelin raid last night. A Zeppelin appeared ten minutes before midnight and circulated over the town for forty minutes, dropping many bombs.

"Warning of the enemy's approach was given the people by the electric lights being cut off. Everybody remained calm, and many persons ventured into the streets to get a better view of the raider. No building of public importance was struck, but much damage was done in the residential quarter.

"Five persons were killed in a passage leading to a tenement building, whose occupants were obliged to make their exit by means of fire escapes. Two servant girls employed in a doctor's house were killed, while a man was killed in the street. Two hotels were struck, and several persons were killed or injured. A bomb in one instance penetrated a building from the roof to the basement."

A POOR LOOK OUT

SIR ROBERT BORDEN—"I should have seen that coming."

—From the Toronto Telegram, Conservative.

HALF MEASURE FOR INQUIRY FAILS TO SATISFY LIBERALS

Royal Commission Appointed to Receive Orders From Government as Necessity Demands

Allison Contracts First to be Investigated, Then Other Scandals as They Are Uncovered — Sir Wilfrid to Move for Parliamentary Inquiry and Failing This, Commission With Wider Powers, Compelling Evidence in the United States.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, April 3—Sir Robert Borden presented to parliament today the terms of the order-in-council appointing Sir William Meredith and Hon. Justice Duff as a royal commission to investigate the charges made by George W. Kyte, M. P., regarding the million dollar rake-off of Honorary Colonel J. Wesley Allison and his associates in connection with four specific contracts given by the shell committee to United States firms.

The order-in-council further states that the commission may be authorized to investigate other matters relating to the acts or proceedings of the shell committee if such authorization is made by order-in-council from time to time. This latter clause leaves the way open for the disposal of any further charges which may be brought by the opposition in the commons; and well-authenticated rumor says that a number of other serious charges are likely to be brought up before the session ends. Now that the government by the appointment of the commission has admitted that the old defence of no investigation whatever on the ground of exposing to the enemy imperial secrets of munitions resources no longer holds good, there is no sound reason why every other charge which has been made against the shell committee should not also be investigated. But for the present the government apparently thinks that public opinion and recalcitrant government followers in the house will be satisfied with the limited reference of the four specific contracts to the commission. But the way is still left open for widening the investigation as circumstances and public opinion demand.

LIBERALS STAND FOR FULL INVESTIGATION.

Needless to say the Liberals in parliament will not willingly accept the restricted investigation offered. They believe that the people of Canada want a full and free investigation of all the operations of the shell committee and not merely of four contracts out of hundreds, involving less than one-tenth of the total amount of the orders placed by the shell committee. When the debate on Sir Wilfrid Laurier's resolution for a parliamentary investigation of all the operations of the shell committee comes up again in the house tomorrow, the Liberal leader will make this clear. Doubtless his resolution will be voted down by the Conservative majority on whom Sir Robert Borden can now depend. But although the resolution may be voted down it is certain that other efforts will be made by the opposition before prorogation to have the scope of the present inquiry enlarged and to make it more certain that the investigation will cover in a general way, at least, all the main charges as to waste and graft.

Proposed Inquiry Limited.

There are a number of obvious limitations to the investigation by the royal commission which will be pointed out at once. The commission is appointed, according to the order-in-council under the provisions of the inquiries act. Under the terms of that act commissions appointed by order-in-council may "inquire concerning any matters connected with the government of Canada or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof."

In the order-in-council which the prime minister read today it is specially stated that the shell committee "was constituted for the purpose of acting for the government of the United Kingdom" and "that the expenditure made by the shell com-

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WHO NOTIFIED NETHERLANDS TO DEMOBOLIZE ARMY?

No One Seems to Know Holland's Motive in War Moves

BRITISH STATEMENT DENIES ANY THREATS

Dutch Minister of War Says Suggestion That Forces Be Demobilized Will Be Resisted—Bulgaria Consents to Remove Troops from Greece.

New York, April 3—A news agency despatch from London today says: The British foreign office announced this afternoon that there is no foundation for the rumor that Holland's warlike preparations are due to a threat by the Allies to violate Dutch neutrality.

It was also denied that any decision made by the Allies at the recent Paris conference was responsible for the sudden summons of the Dutch parliament into session and the cancellation of soldiers' leave of absence.

The Dutch minister of war in interviews with war correspondents, explaining the reasons for Holland's military activities, made the situation even more puzzling. He hinted that from some power had come the suggestion that Holland demobilize the force she has in arms at the present time to preserve her neutrality.

"Holland must be ready at a moment's notice to resist with the utmost vigor any danger that may arise," he said. "We must be ready to use our whole force at a moment's notice against the violators of our neutrality. We have therefore decided to reject the suggestion that we demobilize even the smallest part of our army."

Bulgaria Placates Greece.

Paris, April 3, 8.25 p.m.—A Havas despatch from Athens says the Bugarian government has notified Greece that it has given orders for evacuation of points on Greek territory accupied by Bulgarian troops. Bulgaria assured Greece of the intention to do everything possible to maintain friendly relations between the two nations.

Albania's Loyalty Valued.

Paris, April 3—Essad Pasha was received today by Premier Briand who commended him as "president of the Albanian government for his loyal attitude to the Entente Allies and the help he had given him in extricating the Serbian army."

King Not to be Moved.

Athens, via Paris, April 3, 11 p.m.—It is learned on the highest authority that King Constantine will pay no attention to the series of articles which ex-Premier Venizelos is writing on the political situation in Greece.

"Arguments cannot alter Greece's attitude," said this authority. "Only facts can bring about a change. If the material situation in the Balkans shifts so that the interests of Greece appear in some other light than today, nobody has ever said that Greece would not adopt an attitude suited to the circumstances. Further writing and talking would only confuse the issue."

German Apologies to Switzerland.

London, April 3, 8.20 p.m.—Germany has apologized to Switzerland for the bombing of the Swiss village of Portentury by German airmen last week, says a Reuter despatch from Berne. A promise to punish the aviators, who supposed they were over Belfort, has been made.

A despatch from Berne last Friday said two acroplanes of unknown nationality had dropped five large bombs on Portentury, with some damage to property. A Geneva despatch said the aircraft undoubtedly were German, and the federal council had ordered the Swiss minister in Berlin to protest.

UNARMED BRITISH BARK SUNK BY SUBMARINE

London, April 3, 8.45 p.m.—Lloyds reports that the British bark Bengairn has been sunk by a submarine. Part of the crew were picked up. It is stated that the vessel was not armed.

The Bengairn sailed from Seattle, Dec. 10 for the British Isles. She was a vessel of 2,127 tons, and was owned in Liverpool.