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General Townshend to Be the Most Brilliant Soldier the Empire Has

General Has Worked His Way up Through Sheer Merit—Studied Every Work on Military Theories and Practices of Napoleon—Also Visited Every Battle Ground on Which Napoleon Fought—Long Before 1914 He Studied the Possibility of War With Germany—Always Said Britain Would not be Able to Depend Solely on Her Fleet but Would Require an Army of Millions

London, Feb. 14.—The remarkable stand which has been made by Major General Charles V. Townshend and his comparatively small body of British troops at Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, where for nearly two months they have been besieged by a large army of Turks, has raised General Townshend to a high place of esteem by the English public.

This far away war theatre has been watched with the deepest of interest by those at home since the British repulsed the Turks at Ctesiphon and began their retreat. Kut-el-Amara and exploits of General Townshend have occupied much space in the newspapers, some military critics hailing him as one of the most brilliant soldiers the Empire has produced.

During the long siege General Townshend has beaten off the attacks of the Ottoman troops and kept his little force intact. Every despatch which comes through from the commander has been read with deepest interest by the public, which feared that the relieving army which is said to have been held up by natural obstacles would reach Kut-el-Amara too late.

General Townshend's recent report that he had sufficient supplies for his soldiers greatly relieved the minds of the British people who are anxiously awaiting the outcome.

When the full story is told of the battle of Ctesiphon, the retreat of Kut-el-Amara and the siege they are expected to make as thrilling a chapter of any in the history of the world's war. The name of General Townshend will occupy an important place in that story of the conflict at Ctesiphon. The General himself fought as fiercely as any of his soldiers who that day put to flight a body of Ottoman troops said to have been six times their number. There were many critical moments. It was in those times that General Townshend showed himself to be a cool resourceful commander and able tactician. Four times he rallied his men and led them in their charges.

Military critics declare the victory at Ctesiphon was a magnificent one, but that the retreat of Kut-el-Amara will equal if not surpass it, as a successful military achievement under disadvantages of an extraordinary kind. It is stated not only did General Townshend ward off the Turks, but he did so with a loss insignificant under the circumstances; he succeeded in taking with him all his wounded. It has been declared that the men under him would follow General Townshend anywhere.

General Townshend is said to have forced his way up to his present high command through sheer merit. When he was only a Lieut-

tenant he became a student of Napoleon, he studied every work on military theories and practices of that great General.

He made a rule to study seven hours a day. Further, he visited every battlefield on which Napoleon fought and reconstructed for himself the disposition of forces and battles which decided the fate of nations. It is stated here that probably there is no greater authority on Napoleonic warfare in the British Army than he.

General Townshend long before 1914 had studied the possibility of war with Germany; he always held when war did come Britain would not be able to rely solely on her navy but would need to have a great army ready for the field. Believing that this country would require an army of millions, not thousands, he favoured compulsory service. He expressed the opinion that Germany would make her attack on France and eventually England through Belgium; he many times surveyed what he thought would be the coming battlefield.

The General is fifty-four years of age.

German Scout Ships Have Left Zeebrugge

Amsterdam, Feb. 14.—The Telegraph says: German scout vessels in the North Sea are believed to have gone out of Zeebrugge, as it is known that armed trawlers are stationed there, and that some vessels which formerly were not in that port have been lying there under steam.

Small German warships have been active in the North Sea recently.

The German War Office announced last week that two British cruisers had been sunk, but the British said the vessels referred to were mine sweepers, one of which failed to return to port.

Austrian Planes Made a Raid On Rasenna

Paris, Feb. 14.—Austrian aeroplanes made a raid yesterday over Ravenna and neighbouring towns of Codigoro and Bottrighe, north-eastern Italy, near Adriatic.

A Havas despatch from Rome says 15 persons were killed, a number of others were wounded, several women and children were injured. The hospital Bosilicas and church Sant Apollinare at Ravenna were damaged.

The church of Sant Apollinare, erected in the years 535 to 536, and consecrated in 549 by Saint Maximian, and restored in 1779, is the largest Bosilicas still existing in Ravenna.

SUNDAY FREIGHT TRAFFIC

Paris, Feb. 13.—The Minister of War and Commerce has authorized that beginning to-day all railway stations throughout France will be opened for freight traffic on Sundays, under the same regulations as are in force on week days, it having been found that traffic in many stations is much heavier than it was in time of peace.

OFFICIAL BRITISH FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AWAIT GOV'T

LONDON, Feb. 13.—An official statement issued to-night says the facts relating to the German aeroplane attack described in German wireless report of Tuesday is as follows:—Eleven hostile machines appeared, one machine dropped three bombs about six miles behind our front line but was driven down by two of our machines. The remaining machines did not face our patrols, nor did they cross our line. Relative to more recent fighting on the western front, the statement says that early this morning the enemy broke into our trenches near Pillelm but was driven out by bombing parties, leaving some dead and wounded behind. This afternoon the enemy made two small infantry attacks about Pillelm Road which were repulsed. There has been some mining activity about Hullock, north of Ypres and Copines Canal. At the latter place an underground fight took place resulting in the enemy being driven back, our miners successfully firing their charge.

Turkey-German army headquarters reported an attack by a German air squadron on the railway station at Paperinghe, Belgium, and British camps between Paperinghe and Dixmude. German airmen had several combats with hostile aeroplanes, according to the statement, but returned without loss.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A British official statement of the campaign on the Western front was issued to-night, as follows:—Last night we sprang a mine west of Hullock, and our troops occupied the crater near Rim, suffering no casualties. There was considerable artillery fire by both sides during the day. The enemy artillery was active about Hohenzollern Redoubt, Cuiinchy and Armentieres. There was considerable aerial activity on both sides about Ypres.

Graham White, British Aviator, Is Wounded.

Hazeubrouck, France, Feb. 14.—Claude Graham White, British aviator, has been wounded gravely; no details could be obtained. He was commissioned Lieutenant last month.

Lieutenant Graham White is one of the best known aviators who won international prominence several years ago by his spectacular flights in England and America. He enlisted in the Naval Corps at the outbreak of the war and was appointed a temporary flight commander. A year ago he had a narrow escape from death while participating in a raid by a squadron of aeroplanes on Belgian towns; he fell into the sea but was picked up by a cruiser.

Lieut. Graham White's wife, formerly Miss Dorothy Taylor, of New York, obtained last month a decree for restitution of her conjugal rights, an action which in England is preliminary step in suit for divorce.

Greeks Confronted With Financial Problems

Athens, Feb. 14.—The Greek Government are considering measures to improve the financial situation. They are being confronted with a large deficit. It is expected they will retain a percentage of salaries of office holders, levy tax on profits realized by the merchant marine from war traffic.

London, Feb. 14.—A despatch from Athens says Bulgarian forces have occupied the Albanian town of Fieri, about 16 miles from Avlona.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AWAIT GOV'T

London, Feb. 14.—It is understood the Government has decided to give over the entire week after Tuesday's discussion of amendments to Royal address which will open the way for interpellations on many matters in connection with the war.

After the formal opening of Parliament, which for the first time since the end of Victoria's reign, will not be made by the sovereign in person will, there, lack the accustomed pageantry.

It is expected Premier Asquith will make one of his periodical reviews of the war; it is not unlikely the Premier's review will be largely concerned with measures contemplated for the enforcement of national economy.

Once the address is voted, the Government will take the whole time of the House for financial business.

In regard to the restrictions on imports, it is stated the Government will in the first instance rule that only one third of the existing imports will be permitted.

An interesting note in connection with the probable duration of the war. Political gossip already talks of arrangements to still further prolong the life of the present Parliament which expires the end of September.

Want Northcliffe as Min. of Aviation

London, Feb. 14.—The suggestion that he should become Minister of Aviation has not been agreeably accepted by Lord Northcliffe, in an editorial to-day. The Daily Mail, one of Northcliffe's newspapers, says:

"Some newspapers and many thousands of correspondents suggest that North Northcliffe should be placed in charge of the Air Department. Lord Northcliffe's reply is: 'There are men better able than he to undertake this task; furthermore, he could not conscientiously take part in a Government that is fighting a defensive rather than an offensive war.'"

Condemned Reprisals for Zeppelin Raids

London, Feb. 13.—Lord High Chancellor, Baron Buckmaster, speaking last night at Keighley, strongly condemned the suggested reprisals for Zeppelin raids.

He said there could be no greater tragedy than when we had conquered the Germans, we should have moulded ourselves and our behaviour upon the very model we set out to break. This is not merely a war of armies, but of ideals.

STEAMER FOUNDED IN TWO MINUTES

Hartlepool, Eng., Feb. 14.—Sixteen members of a Norwegian ship which was sunk by mine or torpedo in the North Sea Thursday night have been landed here.

Two men were injured by the explosion and shattered the afterpart of the ship. She foundered in two minutes. The crew escaped.

The boat was picked up by another Norwegian ship and brought in here.

OFFICIAL RUSSIAN

PETROGRAD, Feb. 13.—Fighting all day on the Riga front for mine crater, ended in favour of the Russian forces near Lake Seventele. The Russians captured the village of Garbournovka after the artillery duels. Russians hold Galician height after a fierce fight. Hun losses in 3 assaults against Galician front were enormous, prisoners confess Huns, captured the hill once, only to be ejected by a veteran Russian regiment, three subsequent night attacks failed under crushing losses. Italians scored in outpost duels.

Some official statement to-day tells of prisoners captured and enemy work parties dispersed at Madonna Monte, Albanno, Reverta, Sommalvo. Supply trains were also shelled at Rio Vataga.

FRENCH

PARIS, Feb. 12 (official)—Artillery busy in Artois, south of Somme. Counter attacks have been thrown on the Germans from greater part of our last trenches. Artillery shelled German works N. E. of Berry au Bac. Ten heavy calibre shells were thrown in the direction of Belfort. A Belgian official despatch last night says an important German detachment composed of picked men, tried an attack by surprise on one of our advanced posts, but was thrown back by our fire. The enemy left before our lines numerous killed and wounded. There was no loss on our side.

RETURNS TO ACTIVE POLITICAL LIFE

PARIS, Feb. 13.—The Journal's Athens correspondent says that former Premier Venizelos of Greece has decided to return to active political life, becoming candidate for the vacancy in the Chamber of Deputies from Tileme.

Urges the Formation of Wheat Reserve

London, Feb. 14.—The Times in an editorial article this morning discusses present depletion of wheat stocks as revealed by the issue of official returns on January 1st, which it declares are not of reassuring character, and urges the formation of wheat reserves.

It admits, however, that little is known of the Government's purchases in Canada, about which it states great secrecy is preserved; moreover, there have been hints in trade papers that the Government has made heavy purchases of wheat during January.

Want Allies Guarantee Poles An Autonomy

London, Feb. 14.—A despatch to The Post from its Rome correspondent states Germany is making strenuous efforts to induce the Poles to agree to accept an autonomy under Suzerainty of Germany in which event Germany will form an additional army of 900,000 Poles.

The despatch adds: The Polish leaders in Switzerland believe it imperative for the Entente Allies to guarantee Polish autonomy which was promised by the Russian Emperor in order to prevent the Poles from accepting the German proposal.

FIRST CALL TO MARRIED MEN

London, Feb. 14.—First call to married men who attested under Derby scheme, The Daily Mail says, will be issued about a month hence.

Late London report said all single men were to be called to colors during the coming week.

Huns Fiercely Attack French Positions in Artois and Champagne

IS ON DIRECT ROAD TO DVINSK

London, Feb. 14.—A Reuter's Petrograd correspondent says: Significance is attached by the Russians to the capture of the village of Garbournovka, which was announced yesterday by the War Office at Petrograd.

It is said the possession of this town renders the defence of Dvinsk more secure as Garbournovka lies on the direct road to Dvinsk.

GERMAN GUNBOAT SUNK

Havrea, Feb. 14.—A Despatch from Belgian forces operating near Lake Tanganyika, Africa, says the German gunboat Zedwig Von Wissmann has been sunk in a naval combat off Albertville; two of the German crew were killed and the remainder of the men aboard the gunboat were made prisoners.

KING FERDINAND VISITS FRANCIS JOSEPH

Amsterdam, Feb. 13.—According to a despatch from Vienna, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria will arrive there on Monday for a short visit to Emperor Francis Joseph. King Ferdinand is reported to have been at the Austro-Hungarian general headquarters on Friday.

Attempted to Kill Every Guest At Banquet

Chicago, Feb. 14.—Superintendent of Police, Schetler, said to-day that he expected the arrest within a short time of Jean Cronos, the assistant chef at University Club, suspected of putting poison in soup served at a dinner given Thursday night to Archbishop Mundellin.

Empty poison bottles and wrappers found in the kitchen of University Club verified by analysis of soup served at the banquet, indicate that the alleged prisoner made scientific calculations to kill every guest at the banquet.

Turks Claim British Defeat Near Karn

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 13.—The defeat of the British in a battle near Karn on the Mesopotamia front, was announced to-day by the war office. It is said the British were compelled to flee, abandoning the dead. On the Caucasus front, the statement further says, the Russians were driven from the Turkish positions they had captured, sustaining heavy losses.

CONFERENCE TO BE HELD SOON IN PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 13.—An official statement issued at Rome to-day, according to a Rome correspondent of the Havas Agency, says, the French and Italian Ministers have come to an agreement on the necessity of a closer co-ordination of efforts of the Allies, so as to assure more perfect unity of action. A conference of the Allies, so the statement adds, will take place at an early date in Paris, when military representatives of the Allies' countries will be present. The conference will be preceded by a meeting of the general staffs.

Berlin Claims the Capture of a Front of About 700 Yards in Champagne District—To the Southwest German Attacks Followed One Another in Quick Succession—They Succeeded in Their Fourth Attempt in Entering One of the French First Line of Trenches, But They Couldn't Hold it and Where Immediately Driven Out With Considerable Loss—Heavy Guns are Actively Employed on Both Sides on Russian Front

London, Feb. 14.—The Germans are fiercely attacking the French positions in Artois section as well as in Champagne. In the latter district, Berlin reports the capture of a front about 700 yards, while the French admit that the Germans have gained a foothold on some of their advance trenches in Artoise near Frise.

To the Southwest the German attacks followed one another in quick succession, there being four during the course of the afternoon. Pushing forward in the face of a hail and shells and bullets the Germans on their fourth attempt succeeded in entering one of the French first line of trenches, which, however, they failed to hold, being almost immediately driven out with considerable losses of dead and wounded, according to Paris.

Northeast of Soissons the German attack preceded by a bombardment which resulted in the capture of the French trench near Crouy road, but here also they were thrown out, leaving their dead on the field.

On the British end of the line, there have been sapping operations and bombardment by both sides.

All around Soissons German artillery was busy preparatory to infantry attacks.

Considerable damage has been done the German positions in Argonne forest by the French; artillery duels are progressing in Lorraine and Argonne.

Heavy guns are being actively employed on both sides on the northern section of the Russian's front; but no important changes in positions have occurred.

In Isonzo region the Austrians have taken from the Italians entrenchments in Rombon zone, while the Italian artillery bombarded Austrian positions at various points, especially in Gorizia sector.

LARGE TURK FORCES ARE SENT TO MESOPOTAMIA

London, Feb. 14.—A despatch from Athens says reports there are that Turkish forces in formidable numbers are being sent to Mesopotamia. Troops released from the Dardanelles are already on their way there and small contingents have already left Thrace.

OFFICIALLY DENIED

Shanghai, Feb. 14.—The report that Yuanese rebel forces have captured Chung King is officially denied.

ONLY TWO SAVED

LONDON, Feb. 13.—Lloyd's reports that the British steamer Cedarwood has been sunk, and two members of the crew saved. The Cedarwood was 654 tons gross, built in 1907, and owned at Middleborough, England.