

VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AGAIN RECAPTURED BY THE BRITISH

Foe Meets Worst Defeat Since 1914 in the Latest Thrust for Amiens—Enemy Makes Some Gains Further North, but Fails to Win High Ground.

Paris, Cable.—The presence of Bulgarian troops on the western front is now confirmed. It is not known here how large a force is there or what troops are represented, but among the officers is the son of the Bulgarian Minister in Vienna, Toschiff.

London, April 25.—The great double German drive in the Somme and Arras sectors, which began on Wednesday morning, has developed into a terrific struggle. The British, having been forced back out of Villers-Bretonneux, launched a counter-attack, re-took the village and swept the Germans back almost to the lines which were held before the present fighting began. The Australians assisted in the victory. The French have been driven back out of Hangard-en-Santerre, but are holding their positions close by, while on the line southwest of Ypres, the British have been compelled to withdraw slightly before furious attacks along the Meteren-Bailleul-Wytschaete.

Wounded Americans are arriving at a hospital behind the French line in the Somme sector, showing that Gen. Pershing's men are bearing their share of the burden of the great battle.

Notwithstanding the frantic preparations made by the Germans for a continuance of their drive toward Amiens and the extreme violence of the fighting, the gains thus far in this sector have been trifling. Along the line from Albert, south to Castel, except at Hangard-en-Santerre, the German assaults have been hurled back by the Allied forces, which are strongly posted on the higher ground to which they retired during the last days of the German drive in Picardy.

It is unofficially reported that from four to six German divisions, or from 48,000 to 72,000 men, have been hurled at the British and French lines near Ypres. The retirement of the British in this sector must have been small, for there are no gains reported by Berlin so far.

That only slight gains have been made anywhere along the two fronts which have been subjected to attack is proof that the allies are prepared to defend their positions. In the past three weeks the Germans have hurried up heavy cannon to the old Somme battle ground and have marched many fresh divisions to the points where they have been held for the moment of attack. Their failure to do more than gain almost insignificant bits of ground is one of the most encouraging features of the fighting which is now going on and which may be looked upon as the third phase of the great German offensive.

Raiding operations are reported along the French lines east of Montdidier.

A TREMENDOUS SETBACK (By Herbert Russell, Staff Correspondent, Reuter, Limited.)

British Headquarters in France, Cable.—Our success at Villers-Bretonneux, beginning with the splendid counter-attack of last night, has been a great performance. It cost the Germans terribly dear to get a foothold in the village. It was scarcely less expensive now that they have been cleared out. We have without doubt re-established our line east of that place.

The German tanks did not particularly distinguish themselves, the whole five concentrating upon a single "female." On the arrival of a "male" tank the quintette made off. It was two of our light tanks of a small mobile pattern, which did fearful execution among a fresh enemy division which had not yet entered the battle since arriving on the western front. These tanks charged the massed troops again and again, looking on returning as if they had been wallowing in a vast shambles.

The latest reports from Villers-Bretonneux is that the Germans are practically all mopped up there. Thus the enemy has suffered defeat, which ranks only second to that tremendous repulse he encountered in Flanders in 1914, and on a smaller scale is reminiscent of his reverse at Arras.

ALLIES STILL HOLD KEMMEL.

An unconfirmed report this morning stated that the Germans reached the crest of Mont Kemmel, but later reports indicate that it is improbable the Allies lost any high ground.

During the last two nights the enemy attacked the French around Dranoutre with a strength of six battalions, and gained a temporary advantage, but were driven back by counter-attacks.

This morning a much heavier assault was delivered by four from six divisions over a front of seven miles on the line Meteren-Bailleul-Wytschaete. The Alpini Corps, 11th Bavarians and the 117th divisions, consisting of mountain troops, were engaged. Jaeger regiments being in support and an entirely fresh division, the 56th, was identified. The attack overlapped our front on the right flank the French.

Reports indicate that the bull-running tactics of the enemy masses carried them through our defensive line in places, and possibly some German parties progressed towards the crest of Mont Kemmel, but I am told this afternoon that the French held both Kemmel Village and the hill, so it seems the danger to this important strategic key position has

been averted. The Germans appreciate the importance of Kemmel so fully that bitter and prolonged fighting in this zone is anticipated.

BATTLE OF THE TANKS.
With the British Army in France, Cable.—The fighting on the British front between the Somme and Villers-Bretonneux continued all night, and the British were actively engaged, not only about the town, but northward toward the river. Some five tanks were employed on each side in the Villers-Bretonneux fighting as supports of the infantry. The crews of the British tanks were experienced in handling their charges, and when two of the tanks got among the enemy troops they crushed their way forward, shooting down the hostile infantry, with rapid fire guns.

The attack on the northern battlefield came between three and four o'clock this morning, after a heavy bombardment with gas shells, which started at 2 a.m. During Wednesday the Germans had stormed and taken the town, and driven about it a salient which cut through the eastern edge of the forest of Aquenne. It was a bout noon when the Germans could lay definite claim to Villers-Bretonneux. The somewhat startling appearance of the German tanks was followed by the dramatic entrance of the British tanks to oppose them. The infantry fighting on both sides was bitter. The British clung with magnificent courage to their posts, and fell bagging step by step.

At mid-day, after the Germans had forced the defenders from the town, the latter organized a counter attack. As the British surged forward the Aquenne Wood, and the British troops pushed on toward the town. It was then, however, that the counter-attacking forces were met by the first of the large number of machine-guns which the Germans had hurled into the place, and this fire was so intense that the first counter-attack was held up. Northward along the line, at Valre, on the Somme, the Germans were pushing with less vigor, but steadily. Vaire was attacked in the morning unsuccessfully, the Germans being thrown back. Throughout the day the enemy artillery hammered voraciously at the allied front. The coming of darkness brought a rest to the contending forces on the ridge.

BRITISH REPORT.

London, Cable.—Australian and English troops have recaptured Villers-Bretonneux and taken more than 600 prisoners in that region. Field Marshal Haig reports from headquarters.

Further to the north, on a line Bailleul to Wytschaete, there has been very heavy fighting, and the allied troops were obliged to withdraw from their positions. The British official reports read: Thursday Evening.—The French and British positions from north of Bailleul to east of Wytschaete have been heavily attacked all day. They were fighting of great severity on the whole of this front, particularly in the neighborhood of Dranoutre, Kemmel and Vierstraet.

In the course of repeated attacks and counter-attacks, the allied troops have been compelled to withdraw from the positions they held this morning. The fighting continues. "South of the Somme several counter-attacks launched by Australian and English troops last night against the positions gained by the enemy yesterday in and around Villers-Bretonneux carried our line onward to within a short distance of our former front and resulted in the capture of over 600 prisoners. The village is now in our hands."

"The enemy's attack yesterday morning on this front was made by at least four divisions and his objectives included the village of Cuchy and the Cachy-Fouillou Road. These objectives were not reached at any point. The number of German dead found in the positions recaptured by our troops shows that the losses of the enemy were very heavy."

Paris, April 25.—The War Office announcement to-night says:

"There was great activity on the part of both armies to-day in the region of Hangard and on both banks of the Aves, but no infantry action. On the Woevre, after a violent bombardment, the Germans delivered an attack in the Reguville sector. Our troops ejected the enemy from some advance elements where he had gained a footing, and completely re-established our lines. Prisoners remained in our hands. "The artillery fighting was quite spirited on the left bank of the Meuse and the Vosges."

CLAIM 2,000 PRISONERS.

Berlin, Cable.—The official statement issued by the War Office to-day reads: "On the western bank of the Aves we advanced our line to the heights northwest of Castel. Throughout the day the enemy delivered violent counter-attacks with his reserves, which had been kept in readiness on the battlefield, and which came hastily forward from the rear. They broke down with sanguinary losses. Bitter engagements lasted throughout the night in the captured region. Over two thousand prisoners remained in our hands, and four cannon and numerous machine guns were also taken. "In the other theatres of the war there is nothing new to report."

IT HAS MANY QUALITIES.—The man who possesses a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is armed against many ills. It will cure a cough, break a cold, prevent sore throat; it will reduce the swelling from a sprain, cure the most persistent sores and will soothe heal cuts and contusions. It is a medicine chest in itself, and can be got for a quarter of a dollar.

ITALIAN FRONT.

British Patrols and Fliers Again Active.

Rome, Cable.—"Quite severe fighting in the Asiago Basin, west of the Brenta River, is reported in the official statement issued by the War Office to-day. The statement reads: "In the Asiago Basin, British reconnaissance patrols attacked enemy detachments which attempted to oppose them. Before our lines at Canove the enemy was forced to retire, leaving behind a number of dead. Later on, hostile groups advancing toward Mount Kabrelaba were repulsed in disorder by our rifle fire. Another party, approaching our lines south of Stoccardo, was attacked and dispersed by hand-grenade fire.

"On other sectors of the front there was patrol activity on both sides. Our forces captured machine guns and rifles in the Alano district. "Four enemy airplanes were shot down by British aviators."

Mothers can easily know when their children are troubled with worms, and they lose the time in applying the best of remedies—Mother's Worm Expeller.

THE U. S. TROOPS

Are Aiding French in Defense of Hangard.

London, Cable.—The reference in the official statement issued by the French War Office definitely locates the American troops which were moved from the southern sectors of the battle line to parts of the front which were hard pressed during the great German drive through Picardy. It has been known that they were somewhere in the battle area since April 6th when Stephen Pichon, Foreign Minister of France, speaking at Paris, referred to the "Americans fighting in Picardy and sacrificing their lives to drive the enemy from our land."

On April 10th despatches from both the French and British headquarters in France reported the arrival of American troops. This was prior to the time when the French extended their lines far to the north of Montdidier. The French official statement indicates that the Americans did not move the night when the British forces were replaced by the French, but held the positions of which they were originally assigned.

GERMANS CLAIM INVISIBLE GAS

Already in Use On Western Battlefield.

Rosy Statements Made in Reichstag.

Amsterdam, Cable.—Speaking before the main committee of the Reichstag yesterday Lieut.-General von Stein, Prussian Minister of War and State, said that 20,000 men wounded in the battle on the western front have already returned to their regiments, according to German newspapers received here. He inferred from the small number of Americans captured that not many Americans had as yet been sent to the front line.

Gustav Noske, Socialist, said that the number of Americans on the western front appeared, according to the latest reports, not as small as the Minister represented.

General von Stein, resuming, said that gas fighting is not a development of this war, but had been used earlier in position warfare.

"Our new powder develops carbonic oxide gas," he said. "We organized the employment of this gas, and the enemy soon followed. Thanks to our excellent gas-masks, the success of extensive enemy gas attacks, in the Somme battle amounted to but little. "After the development of the gas attack gas shells made their appearance. We now are manufacturing an invisible gas. The enemy has not caught up to us here. Our losses through the effects of gas have been slight. The statements relative to the terrors of gas fighting have been greatly exaggerated. The majority of gas poisoning cases in the hospitals are doing well and there will be no permanent injury to the men's health to fear. Our experts have made masks which give absolutely certain protection.

"No country will agree to renounce the use of gas. It is therefore, necessary for the experts to labor continuously to keep us ahead. "Our tanks are superior to the enemy's, particularly in speed. No proposal has been received from an enemy Government to restrict aerial attacks to fortified towns and we cannot one-sidedly undertake such obligations."

HUNS IN CRIMEA.

Sebastopol Cut Off From the Mainland.

Berlin, Cable.—An official report reads: "Troops commanded by Gen. von der Goltz have taken the railway junction at Khyayvino and Rikilmoki, Finland, and established communications with the Finnish army north of Lakhti. In the Crimea, troops under the command of Gen. Kosch have reached Simferopol. The reported presence of German troops at Simferopol marks the cutting of the railroad connecting the fortress of Sebastopol with the mainland of Russia. Simferopol is 35 miles northeast of Sebastopol.

ZEEBRUGGE CANAL BLOCKED; OSTEND FAIRWAY NARROWED

Official Story of British Naval Raid Says Results Were Fine—U-Boats Will Have to Operate From Ostend, a Big Drawback.

London, Cable.—The net result of the British navy's raid on the Flanders coast, according to a high naval authority, is that the Zeebrugge Canal entrance is effectively blocked, a breach 123 feet long has been made in the viaduct connecting the mole with the land, and the Ostend fairway has been inconveniently narrowed, but not wholly blocked.

The Zeebrugge Canal is much more important to the German navy's operations in the channel than Ostend, as it was through Zeebrugge that the coast was constructed at Antwerp were brought to the coast, also munitions and general supplies for coast defence. Zeebrugge harbor has been daily dredged by two dredges owing to the perpetual shifting of the sand. The British sunk one of these dredges. The other was damaged, so that with a breach in the viaduct and a south-west or westerly wind the sand shifting has proceeded rapidly and it will take the Germans some time to overcome it.

The removal of the blockships across the canal's mouth also is a slow and delicate job, because the use of heavy charges would still further injure the entrance walls of the canal, and the blockships were constructed in a peculiar manner so as to give them high resisting power. For a time the Germans must use Ostend instead of Zeebrugge as their chief refuge, thus bringing them further down the channel than they like.

The raid was a splendid enterprise, and ingeniously planned, magnificently executed and showing the dauntless pluck of the British navy with its inspiring moral effect. But for the ill-luck of the wind suddenly veering and thus spoiling the smoke screen, it would have been as successful at Ostend as it was at Zeebrugge.

REPORT OF THE ADMIRALTY.

The Admiralty has issued the following official narrative on the Zeebrugge affair: "Those who recall Highwood upon the Somme as it was after the battles of 1916, may easily figure to themselves the decks of H.M.S. Vindictive as she lies to-day in stark black profile against the sea haze of the harbor, amid the stripped, trim shapes of fighting ships which through these waters."

"That wilderness of debris, that litter of steel and broken tools of war, that lavish ruin, that prodigious evidence of death and battle, are as obvious and plentiful here as there. The ruined tank, nosing at the stout tree which stopped it, has its parallel in the flame-thrower's hut at the port wing of the Vindictive's bridge; its iron sides flecked with rents from machine-gun bullets and shell splinters.

The tall white cross which commemorates the martyrdom of the Londoners is sister to the dingy piered white cross which floated over the light at Zeebrugge Mole. "Looking aft from the chaos of her wrecked bridge, one sees snug against the wharf of the heroic bourgeoisie shapes of the two Liverpool boats, the Iris and Daffodil, which shared with the Vindictive the honors of the arduous fight. The epic of their achievement shapes itself in the light of that view across the scarred and littered decks, in that environment of grey water and great, still ships.

Their objectives were the canal at Zeebrugge; and the harbor at Ostend. They were accompanied by the Thetis and three of five other veteran and obsolete cruisers and mosquito fleet destroyers, motor launches and coastal motor boats. Three of the cruisers, the Intrepid, Iphigenia and the Thetis, each dully packed with concrete and with mines attached to her bottom for the purpose of sinking her, Merimac fashion, in the neck of the canal, were aimed at Zeebrugge. Two others, similarly prepared, were directed at Ostend. The function of the Vindictive, with her ferry boats, was to attack the great half-moon Mole which guards the Zeebrugge Canal, to land bluejackets and marines upon it to destroy what stores and guns of the Germans they could find, and generally create a diversion while the block ships ran in to purgative to complete their thoroughness, because they are thorough in themselves. One dose of them, and they will be found palatable by all children, will end the worm trouble by making the stomach and bowels untenable to the parasites. And not only this, but the powder is by certain to exert most beneficial influences in the digestive organs.

"Vice-Admiral Keyes, in the destroyer Warwick, commanded the operation. There had been two previous attempts to attack capable of being pushed home if weather and other conditions served. The night of the 22-23 of April (Tuesday) offered nearly all the required conditions, and some fifteen miles off Zeebrugge the ships took up the formation for attack. The Vindictive which had been towing the Iris and Daffodil, cast them off to follow under their own steam. The Intrepid, Iphigenia and Thetis slowed down to give the first three time to get alongside the Mole. The Sirius and the Brilliant shifted their course for Ostend and a great swarm of destroyers and motor boats spread themselves abroad upon their multifarious and particular duties. The night was overcast, and there was a drifting haze. Down the coast a great searchlight swung its beam to and fro in the small wind and short sea."

"From the Vindictive's bridge, as she headed in towards the Mole, with the faithful ferry boats at her heels, there was scarcely a glimmer of light to be seen shorewards. Ahead, as she drove through the water, rolled the smoke screen, her cloak of invisibility, wrapped about her by small craft. This was the device of Wing-Commander Brock, without which, acknowledges the Admiral in command, the operation could not have been conducted. A north-east wind moved

the volume of it shoreward ahead of the ships. Beyond it was the distant town, its defenders unsuspecting. It was not until the Vindictive, with bluejackets and marines ready for landing, was close upon the Mole that the wind lulled and came away again from the south-east, sweeping back the smoke screen and laying her bare to the eyes that looked seaward. "There was a moment immediately afterwards when it seemed to those in the ships as if the dim, coast-hidden harbor exploded into light. A star shell soared aloft, then a score of star shells. The wavering beams of the searchlights swung, swung around and settled into a glare. "A wild fire of gun flashes leaped against the sky, strings of luminous green beads shot aloft, hung and sank. The darkness of the night was supplemented by a nightmare daylight of battle-fired guns and machine guns along the Mole. The batteries ashore awoke to life. It was in a gale of shelling that the Vindictive laid her nose against the 30-foot high concrete side of the Mole, let go her anchor and signaled to the Daffodil to shove her stern in. "The Iris went ahead and endeavored to get alongside likewise. The fire was intense, while the ships plunged and rolled beside the Mole in the sea, the Vindictive with her greater draught jarring against the foundations of the Mole with every plunge. They were swept diagonally by machine-gun fire from both ends of the Mole and by the heavy batteries ashore. "Commander (now captain) Carpenter coned the Vindictive from the open bridge until her stern was laid in when he took up his position in the flame-thrower hut on the port side. It is to this but that reference has already been made. It is marvelous that any occupant of it should have survived a minute, so riddled and shattered is it. The officers of the Iris, which was in trouble ahead of the Vindictive, describe Captain Carpenter as handling her like a picket boat. The Vindictive was fitted along her port side with a high false deck, from which ran eighteen bows of ganways by which the storming and demolition parties were to land. "The men gathered in readiness on the main lower decks, while Col. Elliott, who was to lead the marines, waited on the false deck just abaft the bridge. Capt. Halahan, who commanded the bluejackets, was amidships. The gangways were lowered and scraped and rebounded upon the high parapet of the Mole as the Vindictive rolled in the seaway. "BOTH LEADERS KILLED. "The word for the assault had not yet been given, when both leaders were killed. Col. Elliott by a shell and Captain Halahan by machine gun fire, which swept the decks. The same shell that killed Col. Elliott also did fearful execution in the forward Stokes mortar battery. "The men were magnificent; every officer bears the same testimony. The more landing on the Mole was a perilous business. It involved a passage across the crashing and splintering ganways, a dorp over the parapet into the field of fire of the German machine guns which swept its length, and further a drop of some 16 feet to the surface of the Mole itself. Many were killed and more wounded as they crowded up to the ganways, but nothing hindered the orderly and speedy landing by every gangway. Lieut. Walker, who had his arm carried away by a shell on the upper deck, lay in the darkness while the storming parties trod him under. He was recognized and dragged aside by the commander. He raised his arm in greeting. "Good luck to you!" he called, as the rest of the stormers hastened by. "QUARTER-DECK A SHAMBLE. "The lower deck was a shamble as the commander made the rounds of his ship, yet those wounded and dying men raised themselves to cheer as he made his tour. The crew of the howitzer which was mounted forward had all been killed, and a second crew destroyed likewise. Even then a third crew was taking over the gun. In the stern cabin a fireworks expert who had never been to sea before, one of Captain Brock's employes, was steadily firing great illuminating rockets out of the scuttles to show up the lighthouse on the end of the Mole to the blocking ships and their escorts. "Miles' Worm Powders do not need the after-help of castor oil or any purgative to complete their thoroughness, because they are thorough in themselves. One dose of them, and they will be found palatable by all children, will end the worm trouble by making the stomach and bowels untenable to the parasites. And not only this, but the powder is by certain to exert most beneficial influences in the digestive organs.

ITALIAN MURDERED.

Montreal, Report.—The body of Giovanni Petralia, an Italian, was found with a number of wounds on it in Raymond street, this morning. Jos. Logera and Antonio Poda have been taken into custody by the police in connection with the crime, which was committed on Monday night. The body was found in a shed that was used by the murderers of an Italian named Praletta to hide his remains several months ago.

She-Tom, do you remember the night you asked papa for my hand, how fortunate you were? He—Perfectly—he asked me to lend him \$10 and I didn't have it.—Boston Transcript.

FINLAND'S WOES.

Past Terrible, Present Bearable, Future Uncertain.

Stockholm, Cable.—With the re-establishment of telegraphic communications between Helsinki and Stockholm after a fortnight's suspension. United States Consul Haynes at Helsinki has sent the following message to the American Legation here: "The past has been terrible. The present is bearable. The future is uncertain."

M. Orloffsky, the Bolshevik Minister at Stockholm, has declared his willingness to issue passports of all properly recommended Americans for trips to Russia. He still refuses, however, to issue French and British passports. The only route to Russia is by way of Narvik, and 18 days are required to make the trip to Petrograd, at an expense of more than \$20.

American Minister Morris has been informed by Finnish Minister Gripenberg that the Finnish Minister in Berlin reports that negotiations for the release of American and British citizens made prisoner on the Aland Islands some weeks ago are proceeding satisfactorily. Professor Henry Crosby Emery, the American involved, has been released from imprisonment at Danzig, and will shortly be permitted to leave Germany.

Corns cripple the feet and make walking a torture, yet sure relief in the shape of Holloway's Corn Cure is within reach of all.

WOULD JOIN UKRAINE.

The Crimea Does Not Want German Rule.

Amsterdam, Cable.—A deputate from the Crimea has arrived at Kiev to urge upon the Ukrainian Rada the incorporation of the Crimea in the Ukraine, according to a despatch from Kiev to the Lokal Anzeiger, of Berlin, by way of Vienna. The Government of Minsk and the district of Homel also have sent deputations requesting union with the Ukraine.

The German official statement of Wednesday said that German troops had reached Simferopol, capital of the Crimea. A great part of the Government of Minsk has been under German control for some time, as has Homel.

DESTROY 1,000 ENEMY PLANES

In Six Weeks Preceding the Great Drive.

Crippled in Air, Huns Advanced Slowly.

With the French Armies, Cable.—No less an authority than Gen. Foch is stated to have declared that in his opinion the activities of French aviation delayed the German advance against the Noyon-Montdidier line by 96 hours during the critical days beginning March 21, when every moment counted. What those activities were was related yesterday by the young major in charge of the air operations of the French army first engaged. He said: "Fortunately, we were located near the front when the offensive began, and so were able to take part immediately without moving. For the first two days we had practically no air fighting. Our work was chiefly reconnaissance and bombing. The German drive was along the south-westward axis from St. Quentin toward Chauny, Noyon, and Lassigny, and the orders I gave were always the same: 'Give them hell along the roads and at every point of concentration, such as Nesle, Ham, Guise, and Jussy.' "On March 23 the German airman appeared, and until the 25th there was plenty of fighting. Its result may be judged by the fact that we brought down a total of 80—of course, you must understand that many of them could not be officially corroborated—and lost less than a quarter of that number. "From the 25th onward my bombers were attacking the concentration points and enemy airdromes night and day, while the fighting airplanes were doing 'low altitude stuff' against convoys and troops on the march. There is no question that at present we are far superior to the Boches in the air, and perhaps owe thereto our successful resistance to this great offensive.

"You must not forget that in the preceding six weeks our boys and the British, whose air work is splendid, had been playing awful havoc with German battleplanes. Altogether, we destroyed full a thousand, and are reaping the fruits now. "It is not so much a matter of replacing machines as the fact that we killed a great number of their experienced pilots, and, as anyone who has fought much in the air can tell you, a new pilot has not one chance in a hundred against a man who has been at the game for many months. Then, too, we had the advantage of being the whole time at a fixed point, where as the enemy had to move his whole flying paraphernalia from point to point. Just the same, the results were unexpectedly good and counted copiously."

"I have several Americans under my command and find them excellent pilots. Your boys have wonderful dash, and get hold of the way to play almost instinctively. Every airman in France is looking forward with eagerness to the day when the American air force will be helping us on a big scale. They will really show the Boche what air activity means."

NEW SMOKING VOLCANO.

Seattle, Wash., Report.—Far western Alaska has a new smoking volcano, according to advices received here to-day by mail from Valdez, Alaska. The latest addition to the northern territory's half dozen or more is on the island near Cape Douglas, about fifty miles east of the Flery Mount Katmai, whose crater is said by scientists to be one of the largest on the globe.