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MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 28 1916

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,892

GERMAN ADVANCE IS CHECKED

French Drive Germans Out of Douaumont and Establish Their Lines on a Ridge From Douaumont Heights to a Point North of the Village of Vaux---From These Positions They Repelled Several Heavy German Attacks on Sunday

FRENCH CHECK GERMAN DRIVE BY CAPTURING FORT DOUAUMONT

MINE SANK LINER OFF DOVER RESCUE SHIP ALSO FELL PREY

Heavy Loss of Life Occurred Thru Capsizing of Lifeboat—Maloja Sank in 20 Minutes After Terrific Explosion—Canadian Steamer Sunk While Aiding.

DOVER, Feb. 27, 11.42 p.m.—The steamer Maloja, a 12,431 ton vessel belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Line, struck a mine and sank within half an hour, two miles off Dover today.

The Times estimates that 147 persons of whom 117 were Lascars, were killed or drowned. The Maloja left Tilbury only yesterday for Bombay with mails, 119 passengers of all classes aboard and a crew numbering about 200, most of them Lascars.

The steamer had just passed Admiralty Pier at Dover, and was opposite Shakespeare Cliff, when an explosion shook her from end to end, she listed immediately to port.

Rescuer Sunk by Mine. The plight of the vessel was observed and dozens of craft went at full speed to her rescue.

Many Officials Aboard. Boat after boat and a number of

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FEW PASSENGERS LOST LIVES SAYS STEAMSHIP COMPANY

DOVER, Feb. 28.—1.45 a.m.—The P. & O. Line has issued the following statement: "The Peninsular and Oriental Line regrets to state that at 10.30 o'clock Sunday morning, when the steamer Maloja was midway between Dover and Folkestone, she was struck by a mine, the afterpart of the ship being blown up.

COL. THOMPSON, EX-M.P., SUCCEEDS TO COMMAND

He Will Head Haldimand County and Six Nations Indian Reserve Battalion.

OTTAWA, Feb. 27.—Col. Andrew T. Thompson, ex-M.P., has been appointed officer commanding the 114th Battalion, C.E.F. (Haldimand County and Six Nations Indian Reserve), succeeding the late Lieut.-Col. Baxter, whose death occurred from typhoid fever in Toronto on Feb. 15.

Ministers Improving

Hon. W. H. Hearst, premier of Ontario, will be in his place in the legislature tomorrow, at the opening, tho his doctors advise that he stop at home in the evenings for some time longer.

Hon. Frank Cochrane, minister of railways, who has been in the Toronto General Hospital for a week, was reported much improved yesterday, and will soon leave for the south.

Many Officials Aboard. Boat after boat and a number of

(Continued on Page 10, Column 1)

MANY RAIDS ON CANADIAN LINES BY HUN AIRMEN

Most of the Victims in Canadians' Area Women and Children.

MORE DARING SCOUTING

Enemy's Working Parties Active—Sniper Shot Brig.-Gen. Macdonell.

OTTAWA, Feb. 27.—Major-Gen. Sir Sam Hughes has received the following communique from the Canadian general representative in France:

"Canadian general headquarters in France, Feb. 27, via London.—On Thursday, Feb. 17, a day quiet beyond the average on the Canadian front, two Canadian generals were wounded. Both officers had come unscathed thru the heavy fighting of 1915 as regimental commanders. In the morning while engaged in inspecting the front defences of his command, Brig.-Gen. A. S. Macdonell, D.S.O., was shot thru the shoulder by a German sniper.

Hun Aviators Ruthless. A heavy snowstorm occurred on Feb. 22 and 23, but from Feb. 16 to Feb. 21 the weather was generally fine and clear. Throughout this period there was great activity in the air.

One of these raids occurred about noon when the streets were filled with the civilian population returning from church. A number of casualties resulted, the majority being women and children. Sergt. J. Cockerill of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, who had done excellent work as a draughtsman and clerk on our corps staff, was unfortunately killed on this occasion.

British Airmen Victorious. One of our aviators, in a meeting and driving of hostile machines and the fire of our anti-aircraft and machine guns forced many of the enemy planes to retire over their own lines.

Early in the morning of Feb. 20 a Zeppelin was heard over our area.

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Verdun is Safe From Enemy Attacks, According to French Official Reports— Fighting Has Raged Around Pepper Hill on the Eastern Bank of the Meuse Since Friday, With the French Lines Being Solidly Maintained— Many German Attacks Against This Position Were Repulsed— New Lines Established From Douaumont Heights on Ridge to North of Vaux Village Withstand Determined German Onslaughts—German Losses Reported Immense, While French Casualties Are Less Than 16,000.

French Trim Huns All Along Front

Cables From Sir Max Aitken Convey Most Encouraging News.

OTTAWA, Feb. 27.—The French line is now being concentrated at Verdun, and the British line is being extended several miles to keep the line intact. The outer fort of Vaux has been recaptured by the French.

These facts were cabled late last night and today to the Canadian Government by Sir Max Aitken, the official representative of the government at the battle front in Flanders.

The first cable, which was received by General Sir Sam Hughes, and which he promptly communicated to the Duke of Connaught, Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, stated that early yesterday the Germans had captured an outer fort of Verdun, but that later in the day the French had recaptured it. The cable said: "Enemy this morning captured outer fort of Verdun. Afternoon, recaptured by French. Battle has settled into ghastly and bloody slaughter."

General Hughes received another official cable from Sir Max Aitken this afternoon, which conveyed the most encouraging news. The cable states that the French are now steadily driving the enemy past Douaumont, despite his spasmodic rallies.

Trimmed All Along Line. This second cable contains nothing regarding the recapture of the fort of Douaumont, but the wording of the cable, said General Hughes tonight, indicates that the outer fort is probably a mass of ruins.

"It begins to look," said the minister of militia, "as though the French had got the Huns trimmed all along the line."

A cable received by Sir Robert Borden from the British headquarters states that the French line is now being concentrated at Verdun, and that the British line is being extended to preserve the connection. The cable also conveys the information that at Verdun there are massed twenty German divisions, and that opposed to them are fifteen French divisions.

The premier's cable also indicates the success of the French forces.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

ONLON, Feb. 27.—The French have checked the German advance upon Verdun on a front which extends from the eastern banks of the Meuse and Pepper Hill, to a ridge which runs north of the Village of Vaux and Fort Douaumont, part of which at least fell into German hands at some time early Saturday morning, but which was speedily regained in a counter-attack which drove the Germans back on the right wing for a considerable distance.

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had 15 divisions on the spot, while the Germans had thrown 20 divisions or 400,000 men into the conflict.

Talou Hill Unoccupied. The Germans claimed that they captured Talou Hill in Sunday's official statement, but the French official communique make it clear that they dominate the position at that point.

As to Talou Hill, the French say that they evacuated it in order to give their artillery a full sweep, and that the Germans have been unable to occupy it.

The Germans on Sunday claimed that they had taken nearly 16,000 prisoners, but it is authoritatively stated in Paris that the total French losses in killed, maimed and prisoners are smaller than the Germans give as prisoners taken.

Bombardment Intense. The bombardment of the Verdun front on both sides of the Meuse was continued without cessation, while the Germans continued the making of tremendous attacks which the French vigorously answered by counter-attacks.

The French clung with success to their positions at Champ Neuville and Cote du Polvre (Pepper Hill), repulsing all attacks of the Germans. A furious struggle raged around Fort Douaumont in which the Germans were driven back, but the enemy clung to positions east and west of this point which the French fought all Sunday to capture.

All Saturday night the French troops continued to reinforce their positions and on Sunday the brunt of the fighting was on the ridge which extends from Douaumont heights to north of Vaux Village, several violent attacks of the Germans being repulsed. The slaughter of Germans has been enormous.

Bleyburg Tunnel Damaged. Allied airmen have attacked and destroyed the railway station and damaged the tunnel at Bleyburg, according to The Echo Belge. An Amsterdam despatch says:

This, if true, impairs the German communications between Metz and the interior of Germany.

Paris is extraordinarily calm in the presence of the great battle in progress around Verdun. There are no indications of tension or nervousness, but only sober confidence in the result prevail.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attacks should

CONTINUED FUR VALUES.

Dineen's will continue last week's attractions in fur values again this week. There must be an entire clearance of stock. Prices are set at figures that disregard original costs. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street. Special feature for today, men's fur-lined and coonskin coats.

continue, for they argue, the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts.

The whole front from the North Sea to Switzerland is on the alert and all leave of absence has been recalled. The French maximum effort has not yet been made.

Losses Not Large. The total French losses in killed, wounded and prisoners since the Verdun battle began, it was authoritatively stated, have been less than the German official communication claims in prisoners.

The Temps' military review, which is usually written by Gen. De la Croix, sums up the situation thus: "The battle being fought is extremely serious. Even should the heights of Polvre and the Vauche wood be taken the enemy would find us perhaps stronger on the Prodebert-Douaumont line, from which begin the defences, properly speaking, of the fortress, covered with trenches and batteries. This is a siege by the Germans; it is a battle against one of our armies in the garrison at Verdun, and its forts don't figure in these combats as a support. The big guns of the enemy might destroy the fort of Douaumont without destroying anything more than an inert block of cement.

Attacks Must Go On. The snow has not caused any diminution of the attacks, because they cannot be suspended. They must be continued to the end. The troops engaged would be unable to remain idle long in the territory captured while awaiting better weather conditions. A thaw would render their situation worse, and it must already be painful."

The Temps refers to the possibility

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SIR SAM HUGHES TO FRONT TO TAKE BIG PART IN WAR

High Imperial Authorities Invite Canadian Minister of Militia to Go on Active Service—Sir Sam Will Report About End of May.

OTTAWA, Feb. 27.—It was learned in official circles tonight that Sir Sam Hughes will be at the battle front at the end of May or the beginning of June. Sir Sam refused to say in what capacity he would see service when he was approached tonight by The World, but it is well known that he has been invited to go to Europe by the highest authorities in Great Britain. It is known that a "feeler" was sent to the Canadian Government several months ago to discover if Gen. Hughes would consent to go, and if the Canadian Government would consent to spare him from the important work he is doing in this country.

Nothing further concerning the matter was learned until it became known yesterday that he had accepted the invitation, and that he had at once made arrangements for proceeding to England and Flanders. It is characteristic of the energetic actions of the minister of militia that every detail was attended to in a few hours, even to the passports of himself and his staff.

Among those who will proceed with him to the war are Captain Harold Daly of Winnipeg, son of the late Hon. T. M. Daly, and Captain John Basset, a member of the parliamentary press gallery.

Sir Robert Borden is going to England in the late spring. He may go at the same time as Gen. Hughes, and it is possible that he may remain in the old country for the larger part of the summer.

When the prime minister is in Europe he will visit the Canadian troops in Flanders, or wherever they may be then.

WAR SUMMARY: Today's Events Reviewed

THE French suddenly stopped the German onsets southward against Verdun at the base of the heights to which they withdrew on Friday after they had confirmed the serious nature of the German intentions. Fort Douaumont, which was penetrated by the German intentions, was regained by a strong French counter-offensive, and the new lines established from Douaumont heights to the ridge north of the village of Vaux. "Pepper Hill," which controls the ridge north of the village of Vaux, the road which runs southward down the trough of the Meuse, has been solidly maintained against violent assaults of the Germans since Friday, while on Sunday equally violent attacks of the enemy, which were directed on the lines between Douaumont and north of Vaux village, were repulsed with great slaughter to the enemy. By determined counter-attacks the French rolled backward the waves of Germans who were dashing forward like demons possessed under the eyes of the kaiser and crown prince, and at other points they allowed the waves of German counter-attacks to be dashed to pieces against their strong defences.

Fort Douaumont, which the Germans claimed that they had captured, was an important stronghold before the war began, being an armored cupola fort, but high explosive shells having rendered this sort of defence obsolete, the French had constructed new and modern defences, with dummy batteries and guns posted where they were not supposed to be, and mounted on cars which could be rapidly shifted to where the fight was thickest. So even the permanent loss of Fort Douaumont would have made no difference to the strength of the Verdun defences.

For a proper understanding of the situation, it should be noted that between the heights which the French now hold and the heights to the north, which the Germans possessed, is a plateau on which the French had pushed their advanced lines with great audacity clear up to the edge of the eminences held by the enemy. The lines on this plateau were held with a minimum of troops, whose role should be to fall back on the heights in their rear when the enemy should develop a serious attack. It is probable that the whole of the French heavy artillery is posted behind the lines of heights to which the French have retired,

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