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Newfoundland Seaman Hillier of the Collier "Franse Fischer" Tells of Ship's Destruction

Zeppelin Which Destroyed Ship Was One Which Recently Visited England—Steamer Was Ridden at Anchor and Was Easy Target for Zeppelin—Hillier Was Thrown Into Water But Managed to Secure Life Belt—Kept Himself Afloat Until Rescued by Belgian Steamer, Heard Their Cries and Picked Them Up—Crew Had No Time to Launch Life Boats—All Went Down With the Ship Which Sank in Two Minutes

London, Feb. 4.—The collier Franz Fischer, which left Hartlepool on Monday afternoon was sunk at sea by one of the raiding Zeppelins which recently visited England, and 13 of the crew, including the captain, were drowned. Three of the men saved were chief engineer Birch, steward Taylor and seaman Charles Hillier.

The Franz Fischer was a captured enemy vessel and was employed as a coasting collier.

Hillier, who is a native of Newfoundland, described the disaster as follows:

About 10.30 o'clock on Tuesday night we heard a noise overhead, such as we had never heard before, presently a Zeppelin came right on top of us and dropped a bomb which fell near the engine room. A tremendous explosion followed, the vessel remaining afloat only about two minutes. There was no time to launch the life boats; we all went under with the ship.

When I came up again I caught hold of a life belt, and after swimming for some time I came across the chief engineer and steward, who had managed to get hold of a life belt, and by their aid we three kept afloat for an hour. It was pitiful to hear the cries of some of the other men who had come to

the surface after the disappearance of the vessel, but soon their cries ceased, and we considered all were drowned.

Meanwhile we continued shouting for help. When we were almost exhausted a Belgian steamer heard us and lowered a boat which picked us up. Subsequently we were transferred to a mine sweeper and landed.

Asked how the Zeppelin managed to locate the vessel in the dark, Hillier said: The collier was riding at anchor, her anchor lights must have been seen by the men of the Zeppelin; as the vessel was stationary it was easy to drop a bomb on her.

PEASANTS ATTACK DISTRICT BUREAU

London, Feb. 4.—Telegraphing from Petrograd, a Reuter's correspondent says that a Mukden Manchuria despatch says many thousands of peasants attacked and plundered the administrative bureau and the chief of the district of Kwank Tsien near Tantung, accusing the chief of malversation of taxes.

PARIS REPORTS AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Paris, Feb. 4.—The observatory reports an eclipse of the sun took place to-day at 4.33 p.m. or 15 minutes before sunset. The sun was too close to the horizon for any observation to be made; it also was shrouded in mist.

VERDICT OF WILFUL MURDER

LONDON, Feb. 3.—An inquest was held to-day on the cases of 13 Zeppelin victims in Staffordshire. A verdict was returned of wilful murder against the Kaiser and Crown Prince, Germany being accessories to and after the fact.

OFFICIAL

BRITISH

To Governor, Newfoundland:

LONDON, Feb. 3.—Headquarters in France report that the enemy attempted a surprise attack, without previous bombardment, against our position on the Ypres-Pilkeu road. It was easily repulsed. Elsewhere was mining activity.

In the Caucasus the Russians approached Chorok River, and near Erzerum successfully engaged the Turkish advanced guards.

BONAR LAW.

LONDON, Feb. 3.—The following British official statement has been issued regarding operations on the Western front.

"One of our patrols last night after shooting a hostile sentry, threw hand grenades into the hostile trenches established at the northern end of Frise.

"At about eleven thirty o'clock this morning the enemy attempted a surprise attack against our trenches near Ypres on the Pilkeu Road. The attack was not preceded by any artillery bombardment, and was easily repulsed by our fire."

London, Feb. 4.—A British official statement of the campaign on the western zone was issued to-night. It says there was heavy hostile shelling during the day, it was directed against our trenches around Loos and against Loos itself; we replied effectively. There has been mining activity about Hohenzollern, redoubt between this redoubt and LaBassee road, this activity was mainly on our part.

FRENCH

PARIS, Feb. 3.—The following statement was given out at the War Office this afternoon:—

"The night was calm, and there is nothing of importance to report. Shortly after midnight yesterday, following a spirited bombardment, the Germans launched an attack against our positions at Bois des Buttes in the north Aisne region, and the village of Bois.

DUTCH VESSEL TORPEDOED

HOOK OF HOLLAND, Feb. 3.—Continued activity by German submarines in the North Sea is evidenced by the torpedoing of the Dutch motor vessel Artemis near the Noord Dinden Lightship.

The Artemis arrived here to-day leaking badly.

WILSON GETS IMPORTANT DESPATCHES

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 4.—President Wilson received from Secretary of State Lansing to-day, what the members of his party characterized as a very important despatches relating to the foreign situation. Their contents were not revealed, but it was understood they related to the Lusitania and Appam cases.

The President spent the late afternoon in reading the despatches in his private car and through them getting in touch with the developments of the foreign situation since he left Washington.

A final settlement of the Lusitania case is expected soon after the President arrives to Washington. He is determined that Germany shall make a full disavowal and reparation, and it is understood he will be satisfied with nothing less.

Admit Turks Defeat in the Caucasus

LONDON, Feb. 4th.—German sources admit the failure of the Turkish campaign in the Caucasus, says a Central News despatch from Amsterdam. There has been heavy fighting 10 miles South of Erzerum where the Turks sent reinforcements from Trebizond.

According to a despatch the Turks are declared to have fought stubbornly but were compelled to retreat. The messages adds that 80 wounded Turkish officers and five thousand wounded men have arrived at Trebizond.

HAVE UNTIL MARCH 2ND TO ATTEST

LONDON, Feb. 3.—King George at a Privy Council meeting to-day signed a proclamation fixing February 10th as the appointed date at which the Military Service Act shall be regarded as coming into force.

According to the law, all single men between 19 and 41, who have not attested under Earl Derby's recruiting plan, and are not exempt under the Act, will be allowed until March 2nd to attest. After that time they become conscripts, and may be compelled to serve.

SORROW IS GRADUALLY PASSING A FEELING OF ANGER REMAINS

LONDON, Feb. 4.—One of the most interesting features of the later stories of the recent Zeppelin raid over parts of England is the effect which the visitation had on the mind of the inhabitants of the rural towns in which hitherto had been far removed from the horrors of war.

A correspondent writes: "It is not easy to describe all the feelings with which the outrage has filled the people, for they vary according to the vividness of the individual recollection and the nearness of the personal loss. Seven of the persons killed in this town were children, a few women and two were men, both the men being over 50 years of age. 'What harm had my child done?' is a question which has been asked over and over again by parents, but their grief is not paralleled in the streets and it is only here and there that one feels the gloom of death. Many houses are in mourning. Streets have become places for sightseeing. The townspeople, if you press them, do not deny that which the Zeppelin was dropping its bombs they felt the dread as to the terrors of the night more than when mourning came and the effect of the first shock remains."

Bulgars Clash With Allies on Greek Frontier

London, Feb. 4.—Reuter's Athens correspondent says he has received a report from good sources that an encounter between the Bulgarians and Entente Allied troops took place on Tuesday on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier. The Bulgarians fired at a French detachment reconnoitering at a point where the Greek, Serbian and Bulgarian frontiers meet, but the Allies repulsed the Bulgarians.

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—The bodies of two women have been taken out from the Commons gallery dead.

had passed here and anger took the place of fear. Now sorrow is gradually passing, but a feeling of anger remains.

Destructive Fire Breaks Out in Dominion Houses of Parliament

Two Members Badly Burned—Two Women Taken From Gallery of Commons Dead—Fire Spread Quickly—The Members Escaped by Jumping Through Windows—Many Women Who Jumped From Second Story of Burning Building Are Badly Injured—Fire Broke Out in Reading Room of Commons and in Space of Three Minutes Building Was Filled With Smoke and Flames—Origin of Fire Unknown—Suspicion Points to Work of German Agents—Feared Many More Are Dead Under Ruins—Canadian Regiment now Guarding Parliament Hill

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—The fire which broke out in the reading room, adjacent to the chamber of Commons, in the main building of Parliament houses, rapidly spread. At midnight it was still beyond the control of the firemen and was spreading to the senate and side building. Two lives are known to have been lost, while a score of people were overcome with dense smoke; others were injured. The damage cannot yet be estimated.

Members of the Commons in the Chamber and various Parliamentary offices, had to fight their way to safety. People in upper stories of the building had a narrow escape, scores having been taken out by ladders.

Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, whose office is off the reading room, escaped through the tongues of flames and was badly burned about the face and hands. Michael Clark, M.P., was knocked down by streams of water, but escaped with slight injury. Sir Robert Borden escaped hatless and coatless, while Sir Wilfred Laurier was not in the House. So far as can be ascertained at this hour all other members are safe.

Mayor Martin, of Montreal, first alarmed the members of the Chamber on his way to his room, which was near the library, when he heard an explosion, which may or may not be caused by spontaneous combustion. He immediately rushed to the Chamber and shouted fire, and despite the effort of the firemen, the fire rapidly spread through the great corridors of the main building, quickly eating its way through the Commons Chamber the roof of which fell in. The speakers and their many valuable paintings and costly furnishings.

There were a number of persons in the galleries of the Commons and they had great difficulty in fighting their way down the narrow stairways to safety. Several soldiers assisted the people in making respirators with their clothing and aided many to bathe their way out. Two soldiers were taken to hospital, badly cut with falling glass. Mayor Mederic Martin, of Montreal, told his story to the Eastern Press shortly after his arrival at the Chateau. Sir Wilfred Laurier escaped uninjured but was mourning the loss of his fur coat, cap and other wearing apparel.

"I was on my way from the Chamber to my room, which is near the library," said Mayor Martin, "and had gone through the door on the east side of the Commons Chamber when I heard an explosion, and instantaneous flames shot out from the reading room. I realized that there was a blaze. My first thought was the fire extinguisher, which was nearby, but the policemen were then endeavouring to press it into service. I turned, and running into the Chamber, Deputy Speaker Rhodes was in the chair. Everything was tranquil until I dashed through the door and shouted fire and a big one. I turned toward my room again, but by that time the corridor was filled with smoke, and flames were beginning to shoot toward the Chamber.

"I then cried out for the members to get out, and ran around by room 16 giving the alarm, then escaping into the open air. I saw them helping one of the Ministers, I think it was Burrell, out of his room, and later

saw Dr. Clark, who had been burned about the face and hands. I sent an order for the Montreal Fire Brigade. I notified Chief Tremblay to send as many men as possible. The flames swept along the corridors at an awful rate. It seemed just a few minutes until the whole place was black with smoke, making it impossible to see. There was not much confusion on the floor of the House, and to this many members probably owe their escape."

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—At 2.45 this morning the fire was under control and the firemen believe they will be able to prevent it spreading to east or west blocks. The library will likely be saved, but the senate side of the building is now burning.

The following are among the dead: Robert Fanning, waiter; Alph DesJardins, Dominion policeman; A. DesJardins, plumber; and a fourth man whose name is yet unknown.

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—A number of policemen and firemen have been buried by the collapse of the end of the building. The roof of the tower collapsed at one thirty, and fell northeast with a roar, sending a shower of sparks and embers to the sky.

Madame Bray and Madame Morin, Quebec, guests of Madame Sevigny, wife of the Speaker of the Commons, were overcome by smoke, and were dead when the firemen brought their bodies out.

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—Canadian Parliament buildings are in ruins. The fire which broke out at nine o'clock last night in the Commons reading room swept with tremendous fury down the corridors and leaped to the galleries and in the space of three minutes had filled the whole wing with an impenetrable volume of smoke; it was followed quickly by flames.

Two people are known to be dead, they are Madame Bray, wife of Dr. Bray, Quebec, and Madame Morin, wife of Dr. Louis Morin, Quebec; they were the guests of Madame Sevigny, wife of the Speaker. They were cut off in their apartments.

Four men are reported to be buried in the ruins, but the fierceness of the fire has so far prevented a search for the bodies; they were buried by the falling of the wall.

Madame Sevigny escaped by leaping into a fire net, while Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, was severely burned about the face and hands when escaping from his office which adjoins the Commons reading room.

The origin of the fire may never be known. There were suspicious last night of incendiarism possibly by German agents, but as policemen were on guard at both doors of the room where the fire started and other rooms it would have been difficult for anyone to deliberately set fire to the place without being detected. A smouldering cigar butt might have it, though smoking in that quarter is supposed to be prohibited.

The escape of members and people in the galleries and the house staff with so small a list of missing is remarkable.

Other Messages
On Page Three

LLOYD GEORGE CONGRATULATES WORKMEN OF BRITAIN ON MANNER THEY HAVE REDEEMED THEIR PLEDGE

Says That Now We Are Able to do For Ourselves What We Had to Rely on Americans For—Winston Churchill Sends Letter From Flanders in Which he Says the Results of Lloyd George's Labors Are Now Visible on the Firing Line

London, Feb. 4.—David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, addressing the workers of a new shell factory, congratulated them on the manner in which they had redeemed their pledges to deliver the goods. "This," said the Minister, "is a fight not merely between the British army and the army of the Kaiser, it is a fight between British workmen and the workshops of Germany.

"The British workmen are now supplying the material which is going to enable us to destroy forever the depotism of Prussian militarism and inaugurate a reign for the freedom of Europe. In old days the hustler was regarded as an alien enemy who come over to this country to steal the trade

of easy going Britain, but now we have discovered we can hustle ourselves. We used to think that none but Americans and Germans could run up workshops in no time and fill them with machinery to turn out great shells; but now we are doing it ourselves."

Mrs. Winston Spencer Churchill at the same meeting read a letter from her husband, former First Lord of the Admiralty, now a Major in Flanders, in which he said the results of Lloyd George's labors and the manner in which the workmen responded to his call were already obvious at the front.

"Our infantry in the trenches," writes Major Churchill, "cheer when they see the British guns are able to reply sometimes threefold to every German shell; always replying with interest. During the campaign of 1916 if the noble exertions now being made in the workshops of Britain are maintained without flagging, we ought for the first time in the present conflict meet the enemy on equal terms."

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