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BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR

THE COURIER, BRANTFORD

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1918

TWO CENTS

FOOTING ON KEMMEL HILL
British Were Forced

Footings on Kemmel Hill Gained by Teutons After Heavy Fighting; Weight of Numbers Drove Allies Back Between Bailleul and Hollerbeke.

By Courier Leased Wire. Bulletin, London, April 26.—A footing has been obtained on Kemmel Hill by the Germans in their attacks on the northern battle front, the war office announced today. The fighting is still continuing in this region. The Allied forces were engaged all day yesterday with greatly superior enemy forces along this front from Bailleul to Hollerbeke (a distance of about ten miles) and finally were compelled to retreat. German posts which were holding out southeast of Villers-Bretonneux on the front south of the Somme after its recapture by the British were cleared up. The statement follows: "On the night of the 25th the British throughout the day against a greatly superior force, the allied footings on Kemmel Hill. Fighting still continues in the neighborhood of Dranoutre, Kemmel and Vierstraat. "We carried out a successful minor operation during the night west of Merville, and captured 50 prisoners and three machine guns. The hostile artillery has been active along our front from the Lys River to Givenchy."

U.S. OBSERVES LIBERTY DAY

Parades and Patriotic Demonstrations Mark Closing of Third Loan. Washington, April 26.—Subscriptions to the third liberty loan which will bring the total well above \$2,000,000,000, the standard minimum, was the soul of the Liberty day drive under way today throughout the United States. The day was a holiday by presidential proclamation and virtually everywhere efforts were being made to speed up the sale of bonds by demonstrations. Parades and house-to-house canvasses were included in the activities in many sections, and in the big cities banks and big corporations were being urged to turn in their pledges heretofore held back for many business reasons. In Washington high officials and government clerks marched in a big procession down Pennsylvania avenue. In New York, April 26.—With routine business virtually suspended in observance of Liberty Day, New York speeded up its lagging liberty loan campaign to-day with a series of patriotic celebrations, culminating with a spectacular "win-the-war" parade up Fifth avenue, in which mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of American soldiers formed the nucleus of the 30,000 marchers. Only women whose households have given men to the nation were allowed to march and carry the service flag. The reviewing officers included the Earl of Reading, the British ambassador, representatives of the French and Italian Governments and the governors of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. H. E. Gadsby, Canada's foremost Parliamentary writer, is a special correspondent of The Courier. Read his letter from Ottawa on Page 4 to-morrow.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, April 26.—The barometer is high over the greater part of Canada and low over the United States, especially between the Mississippi and the Atlantic, where the weather is overcast and showery. The weather is fair and cool throughout the Dominion. Forecast: Fresh easterly winds, fair and cool. Saturday—easterly winds; mostly cloudy and cool.

HOSTILITY DYING DOWN IN IRELAND

Opposition to Conscription Reported to be Gradually Lessening. London, April 26.—(via Reuters' Ottawa agency)—Correspondents of Reuters in Ireland suggest that hostility to conscription is weakening and that the Nationalists are beginning to realize that they merely played into the hands of the Sinn Fein by joining them in opposition. A correspondent of The Daily Chronicle, which is the severest critic of conscription in Ireland, says that the moment John Dillon rescinds the parliamentary policy of the Nationalists, the unity with the Sinn Fein will disappear and the responsibility for disturbing it will be attributed to the Nationalists. The correspondent says that the non-conscription heat excited a similar heat on the other side. Otherwise, it is impossible to explain the marked improvement in Irish recruiting, which is a triumph over near-Balslevikem. Moreover, he said, the country is filled with Americans, who are against parochialism and are stimulating recruiting. They hope the lord mayor of Dublin will be given every facility to go to Washington for a conference.

BARON RHONDDA, FOOD CONTROLLER, RESIGNS

Has Been Absent From Post Through Illness for Some Weeks—Held Office For Ten Months. London, April 26.—Baron Rhondda, The Daily Mail says it understands, has resigned the office of British food controller, which he has held for the past ten months. Lord Rhondda has been absent from his post for some weeks, owing to illness. John Clithers, parliamentary secretary for the food ministry, has been in charge temporarily. David Alfred Thomas, first Baron Rhondda, has been known as the Welsh coal king. He came to the United States in 1916 to organize war munition supplies and was on the Lusitania when that vessel was torpedoed.

"INTREPID" ENTERED THE FIGHT, ALL GUNS ABLAZE

Another Graphic Chapter in the Story of Great Naval Raid—Canal Is Blocked Effectively By Two Sunken Ships. London, April 26.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa agency)—Describing the sinking of the cruisers in the channel at Zeebrugge, the Admiralty report says: "The Intrepid, smoking like a volcano with her guns blazing, was followed by her motor launch, which failed to get alongside in the outside harbor, and she had men enough for anything. Straight into the harbor she steered, her smoke blowing back into the Iphigenia's eyes so that the latter was blinded and going a little wild, rammed a dredger with barge moored beside it which lay in the western arm of the canal. She got clear through and entered the canal, pushing the barge before her. It was then that a shell hit the steam connections of her whistle and the escaping steam which followed drove over some of the smoke and let her see what was doing. "Lieut. Stuart Donham Carter, commanding the Intrepid, placed the nose of his ship neatly on the mud of the western bank. He ordered the crew away and blew up the ship by switches in the chart room. Four dull bumps was all that could be heard. Immediately afterwards there arrived on the deck the engineer, who had been in the engine room and reported all was as it should be. "Lieut. Billram Leake, commanding the Iphigenia, beached according to arrangement, on the eastern side, blew her up and saw her drop nicely across the canal and left her there with her engines still going to hold her in position until she should have settled well on the bottom. "According to the latest reports from air observation, two old ships with their hulls full of concrete, are lying across the channel in a V position and it is probable the work they set out to do has been accomplished and the canal is effectively blocked." Australia Represented. London, April 26.—(By Reuters' Ottawa agency)—The Australian navy was represented in the raid on Zeebrugge by one officer and eleven men. They were mostly on the ships which entered the canal. Six of them were among the men who landed and fought on the Mole. All twelve of them escaped injury.

CONCILIATION BOARD.

By Courier Leased Wire. Montreal, April 26.—Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, will be appointed a chairman for the board of conciliation to settle the differences between the Brotherhood of Railroad Employers Alliance, Bernhardt House, who was selected to represent the men and P. A. McGuire, an chosen to represent the railways, met Thursday, but could not come to any agreement.

DEPORT SINN FEINER.

Dublin April 26.—Darrind Lynch, Sinn Fein food controller, who has just completed a term of two months imprisonment for setting and rendering the raid on Zeebrugge, was deported. Lynch is an American. Sir Thomas White returns to Ottawa. H. F. Gadsby writes on this subject in The Courier to-morrow.

LET GAINED BY THE GERMANS
Ground in Bailleul Sector

ONE LONG RANGE GUN IS PUT OUT OF COMMISSION
VICE ADMIRAL REMOVED FROM HIS COMMAND

Amsterdam, April 26.—Vice-Admiral Schroeder, the commander at Zeebrugge, according to reports reaching here, will be deprived of his command for being taken by surprise by the British Tuesday. German newspapers in comments on the raid, generally take the hint given in the official reports at Berlin and represent the enterprise as having been a failure. Some, however, admit that the attack was made with great boldness. "The Kaiser Visited Scene." London, April 26.—Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent, sends the following telegram received from Berlin: "The Kaiser on Tuesday visited Zeebrugge, the scene of the frustrated English raid. He boarded the Mole, where he convinced himself that the damage caused by the blowing up of the railway bridge had already been temporarily repaired and that a final bridging of the gap can be done in a few days. He also satisfied himself of the perfectly good condition of all the structures and installations on the outer part of the Mole, which was the objective of the attack. "He then proceeded to the canal lock, where two cement-laden cruisers he and at the scene of the nocturnal battle, obtained again an exact account from several participant officers. The Kaiser got a captured English captain of marines who happened to be brought past, to explain the battle. The captain admitted that the destruction of the installations on the Mole and cutting off of our U-boats from the bases at Zeebrugge and Ostend were long prepared enterprises and were to be carried out on a big scale. A surprise attack had been planned four times, but each time it failed, owing to the vigilance of the German outpost boats. Not until Monday night did the thick mist render the raid possible, which, however, obtaining the success in. New instructions have been issued correcting the error which error cut short the furlough of first contingent men by two weeks.

BATTLE FOR KEMMEL HILL IS TITANIC

Enemy Hurls Thousands of Men Against Tenacious British Defenders. NO IMPRESSION MADE. Flanders Again Scene of Full Tide of Battle—Situation in Review. Flanders is again the scene of the full tide of battle. Against Mont Kemmel and the other hills forming the protecting bastion to the plains east and north of Ypres, the Germans are hurling thousands of troops. Standing on their second defence line and with Mont Kemmel still in their possession, the British are fighting tenaciously. Unable to make appreciable progress against the defence of the British, French and American troops on the line south of the Somme, in Picardy, the enemy swung his attacks to the northern bank and then on the left. Aggravated by the first success at Wyttschaete was successful and the Allied troops were compelled to give up their first defence line. The tactics of switching attacks is not new to the Germans and was persisted in by them in their vain attempt to capture Verdun two years ago. After the first successful lunge on both sides of the Meuse, the enemy tried to gain his object, five by attacking first on the right bank and then on the left. Apparently the Germans are now trying the same method of attack by alternating between Picardy and Flanders in attempts to reach Amiens and wipe out the French salient. It is not improbable the Germans may be making another attack on vital sectors in an endeavor to capture place, but it is significant that they have attacked on the most important sectors on either battlefield. South of the Somme the Germans have been driven from the high ground and the village of Villers-Bretonneux has been recaptured by the British with some 600 prisoners. Further south they hold Haardang. On this front heavy artillery duels are in progress. Complete success, it is authoritatively announced, attended the dramatic and courageous raid for the German submarine base at Zeebrugge. The enemy, it is said, will be compelled to some weeks to come to use Ostend as a base and the British then can deal more easily with the German warships and submarines. The channel at Zeebrugge was blocked and much damage done to the enemy defenses and shipping. A change of wind prevented like success at Ostend, the Germans discovering the raiders before they had time to complete their allotted task. The importance of the raid is shown by the fact that Emperor William visited Zeebrugge immediately to ascertain the damage, which Berlin insists was slight. THREE MISSING FROM ST. PAUL. List of Injured Will Not Exceed 20—Liner Being Raised. By Courier Leased Wire. An Atlantic Port, April 26.—The work of raising the American liner St. Paul, which sank at her pier here yesterday, was progressing rapidly to-day. The ship had no cargo and aside from damage to the machinery and furnishing the loss will be confined to the cost of salvaging operations. The vessel lies with her starboard side above water. Three of the 84 men aboard to have been aboard the liner are reported missing, while the list of injured will not exceed twenty.

HEAVY ENEMY ATTACK FROM WYTTSCHAETE TO BALLEUL

Between Four and Six Divisions of Picked German Troops Took Part in Assault; Brunt Borne by French Troops—German Tank Put Out of Action by British. By Courier Leased Wire. With the British army in France, April 25.—(By the Associated Press)—The northern attack this morning was along a front extending from Wyttschaete nearly to Bailleul and was carried out by at least four and perhaps six German divisions. The infantry employed were largely picked hill troops, including the Alpine corps, the 11th division and the 110th Bavarians with Jaegers in reserve. The brunt of the assault came against the French, who were defending Kemmel, which was the enemy's goal. At 2 o'clock this morning the German artillery opened a heavy bombardment on Kemmel and the surrounding country with gas shells and for more than an hour maintained a deluge of these poisonous-bearing missiles. Between 4 o'clock and four o'clock the German infantry men rushed forward and attacked the positions protecting Kemmel Hill. At the same time they began pushing further to the north in order to furnish a protecting flank. Simultaneously with their attack at Villers-Bretonneux the German heavy bombardment on the south against the French and north of the River Somme. At Saille-le-Sec and Vier several attacks were repulsed during the early hours. The first drive against Villers-Bretonneux was made with two divisions and this was thrown back. The Germans immediately put two fresh divisions into line and again surged forward. Five tanks were sent to the north through the valley leading through the southern part of the town and these engines were followed by large forces of infantry. By noon the Germans had swung a salient about 6,000 yards wide and 4,000 yards deep about Villers-Bretonneux, and were holding the town strongly. A surprise attack had been to do until 10 o'clock last night when the British delivered a surprise counter-attack. There should have been a moon to assist the British, but the sky was heavily overcast and a dense mist hung over the region. According to prisoners the enemy had no anticipation of further trouble from the British last night and were sitting snugly in their positions when the storm broke. The German artillery had perhaps been lulled into false security and was doing little shelling. At the appointed hour, the British gunners put down a sharp barrage and the British infantry drove forward. The attack was made from the southwest and northwest on Villers-Bretonneux and these two forces drove in towards the eastern part of the town in a converging movement. As a result the British bottled the town up. The British infantry immediately rushed the town and heavy hand-to-hand fighting ensued. The baronet being used freely. Six hundred prisoners were taken here alone and a great number of the enemy were killed. The town was virtually cleared, and to-day only a few scattered pockets of Germans are in the place. Some of them are still due in pockets of the Villers-Bretonneux.



GALLANT FRENCH TROOPS RECEIVE HEARTY WELCOME. Three days after the Germans launched their great offensive on the western front, a month ago, French troops were thrown into the battle to aid Britain's fifth army, which was forced to fall back from the front of St. Quentin. The above photo shows the British Commander-in-Chief reviewing a battalion which had been placed at his disposal.

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