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GERMANS WERE LOSERS IN RECENT VERDUN FIGHT

Heavy Assaults on the French Line Were Beaten Back With Great Loss

London Cable — The region east of the Meuse again is the centre of the struggle for the fortress of Verdun. The Crown Prince's army began yesterday a determined effort to break through the French line to the east and southeast of the Douaumont plateau, where for the time being the advance appears to have been definitely checked. The new offensive was directed against the village and fort of Vaux, the latter situated on a height to the southeast of the village. German infantry detachments were able in the course of the attack to enter the village, but were immediately driven out again by a bayonet attack. This is the only point at which the French were bent back even to that slight extent. Everywhere else from the outskirts of Douaumont, where the attack was begun on the German right, the assault was repulsed.

To-day the Germans renewed their offensive with the same violence, repeating their attacks several times on the outskirts of Douaumont, on the village of Vaux and on the slopes of the hill upon the crest of which is Vaux fort. The heaviest assault was made on the latter position. Here the Germans were thrown in masses against the French positions at the foot of the slopes. The assaulting lines crumpled up under the barrage fire of the French artillery and machine guns, and the Germans, according to the official statement issued by the French War Office to-night, suffered enormous losses.

Thorough artillery preparations were made by the Germans yesterday afternoon and last evening for the attacks. In spite of these preparations and the series of attacks lasting through the night and the day to-day, it appears that the Germans made no appreciable gain.

POSITIONS CONSOLIDATED.

To the west of the Meuse the Germans began last night, simultaneously with the offensive on the Douaumont-Vaux line, counter-attacks, intended to recover the positions retaken by the French yesterday in the region of the Bois des Corbeaux. The French artillery fire prevented the Germans from debouching from their section of the woods, and all attempts to attack Bethincourt were repulsed. The French continued to consolidate the positions they had regained, and an announcement was made to-night that they now again control practically the entire area of the wood.

Activity on the part of the French artillery is noted in Champagne and in the Argonne.

The taking of Fresnes, in the Woevre, shortened the German front at this point from twelve miles to seven, besides giving the Germans advanced ground. When the attack began the Germans had 60,000 men on this 12-mile front, comprising the fifth Landwehr division of the fifth corps and the Third Bavarian corps.

After this retirement, made necessary by the German possession of Manhuelles and Champlon, the French took up positions of a formidable character on the heights of the Meuse. Here their artillery is holding back the Germans at Manhuelles and Fresnes, and it is not regarded as probable that any serious German offensive will be resumed on this sector of the front unless heavy reinforcements both in men and heavy artillery are brought up.

CULMINATING OFFENSIVE.

Col. Repington, the military critic of the Times, emphasizes the necessity of recognizing the fact that the Germans on the western front are determined to secure a great decision, and says that the temporary relaxation and recrudescence of attacks represent only stages in the great adventure.

A delay in following up the first advance is to be expected, he says, owing to the necessity of moving the great guns forward.

"The Germans are prepared to sacrifice men without counting to win success," he says. "This is to them the culminating offensive of the war, but they are acting methodically and not forgetting that it is to their big guns that they owed their greatest successes.

"It is the guns that are playing the principal role now, and guns uncommonly difficult to move, especially such very heavy guns and howitzers, in such weather as this, and in view of the fact that the French steadily hold the dominating positions and are quick to act on the slightest sign of a move.

"The capture of Forges, Hill 265 and Fresnes are normal operations of advance. They are undertaken to deprive the French of useful points of support and to draw tighter the chain around the main fortified position.

"We must expect these isolated attacks to extend to other regions until all the German batteries are in their second position and the signal given for the resumption of the assault. Then the whole front will probably be attacked and the weight concentrated against the sector or sectors selected for the grand assault.

ONLY A BRIDGEHEAD.

"It must not be forgotten that the French position on the right bank of the Meuse is not considered more valuable in a military sense than any other sector. It is an offensive position from which, had it been the present intention to advance, we might have profited, but in view of the great German offensive it is nothing but a great bridgehead which helps us to break up the German advance and cause the enemy heavy loss. It admirably fulfilled this purpose and will continue to do so. The price asked for it has not yet been paid, and if the Germans want it they must make a higher bid, but because public interest centres on Verdun for the moment it must not be supposed that the French will sacrifice any vital interest to sentiment or defend any particular position any longer than it can usefully be defended.

"Fortresses are dead and real interest hinges on preserving an unbroken front, contesting every inch of the ground, making the enemy pay dearly for every yard he advances, and continuing the defence in successive positions until the foe is exhausted and our massed reserves can effectively intervene."

German look-outs in advanced posts are wearing new armor-coated steel helmets, consisting of a headpiece proper weighing slightly more than two pounds, with a heavy detachable steel plating which is very thick and weighs over four pounds. The total weight of the headpiece thus is nearly seven pounds. The helmet is entirely without ornament and is of a dull grey color.

U. S. TROOPS TOOK REVENGE

Followed Villa's Raiders Into Mexico, Killing Many

Washington Backs Their Invasion Fully.

Washington Report—At 10.30 the War Department made public the following telegram from General Funston:

"Fort Sam Houston, Texas, March 9.—Latest report from Col. Slocum says 46 Mexican soldiers killed, seven seriously founded; now in camp. We had seven men killed, two officers and five men wounded. They will recover.

(Signed) "Funston."

Columbus, N. M., Report—At least 250 troopers of the Thirteenth United States Cavalry followed the Villa band into Mexico. Reports to Col. H. J. Slocum, commanding United States troops at this point, late to-day stated that Villa had made a stand five miles south of the border, where spirited fighting ensued. In this engagement an unnamed private was killed and Captain George Williams, adjutant of the 13th Cavalry, was wounded.

The small detachment of troopers, under Major Frank Tompkins and Elmer Lindsley, fighting dismounted, made a determined stand against the renewed Villa attack, and at last reports were holding their ground.

The bodies of eighteen of the bandits, including Pablo Lopez, second in command, had been gathered and burned before noon, and troopers reported an undetermined number of dead still lying in the brush.

END AT HAND.

Washington Despatch—Washington stands squarely behind Colonel Slocum in sending his cavalrymen into Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa and his band of outlaws, who raided Columbus, N. M., to-day, murdering American soldiers and citizens and firing the town.

Secretary of State Lansing to-night informed the de facto Government of Mexico, through Elizeo Arrendondo, its Ambassador-designate here, that he trusted no objection would be made to the action of the American troops, they having followed what is known in miliary circles as a "hot trail." No orders have been issued for the return of the soldiers, and it is not probable any will be issued for the present.

Shocked indignation occasioned by news of Villa's outrage was quickly succeeded by undisguised satisfaction in official and Congressional circles over the knowledge that after three years of patient forbearance United States troops actually were on Mexican soil to avenge the death of their comrades and to bring to justice the outlaws whose depredations have terrorized Americans and other foreigners on both sides of the border.

ONE FIRE DEPT.

For Six Border Towns in Essex County.

Windsor Report—At a meeting of the ratepayers of the five border municipalities of Windsor, Walkerville, Ford, Sandwich and Ojibway held this afternoon, it was decided to insert a clause in the bill soon to be presented to the Legislature authorizing a joint commission for the government of the public utilities to the effect that the commission be given power to form a metropolitan fire brigade, which will serve all the five towns.

It is understood that the township of Sandwich East is also anxious to be included in the co-operative plan, and an amendment to the bill may be asked later so as to include this sixth municipality.

WELL USED.

German Prisoners Get Pay of British Soldiers.

London Cable says—German naval and military prisoners in the United Kingdom at present total 13,321, and all of them receive the same pay as British soldiers, according to a statement made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War. Some of them are employed in making mailbags, for which they receive fourpence each.

There are also 32,131 interned enemy aliens, the Under-Secretary added, some of whom are employed in quarries and others in making mailbags. The Government, he said, hopes to start both military and civilian prisoners shortly on the work of clearing forest lands.

HUN RULERS, NOT PEOPLE, BLAMED

Viscount Bryce's Pamphlet Shows Britain's Stand.

Five Principles Which Animate Our Nation.

London Cable says—(Montreal Gazette.)—The MacMillan company will soon publish in pamphlet form an article, written by Viscount Bryce at the request of a Swiss editor, on "The Attitude of Great Britain in the Present War." By courtesy an advance copy has been obtained. The author enunciates "the principles which animate the British people, making them believe that they have a righteous cause, and inducing them, because they so believe, to prosecute the war with their utmost energy."

These principles are five: First, liberty; second, nationality; third, maintenance of treaty obligations and of those rights of smaller nations which rest upon such obligations, fourth, the regulation of the methods of warfare in the interests of humanity, and especially the exemption of non-combatants from the sufferings and horrors which war brings; fifth, representation by England of a pacific as opposed to the military type of civilization.

Viscount Bryce develops each of these heads, and then adds "a few words of a more personal kind to explain the sentiments of those Englishmen who have in time past known and admired the achievements of the German people in literature, learning and science, who had desired peace with them, and who had been constant advocates of friendship between the two nations. Such Englishmen do not cease to be lovers of peace because this war, felt to be righteous, commands their hearty support, and are now just as determined as any others to carry on the war to victory. The reason is that this war presents itself to them as a conflict between the principles which Lord Bryce enunciates as actuating England and the doctrine that the end of the state is power; that might makes right; that the state is above morality; that war is necessary and even desirable as a factor in progress; that the rights of small states must give way to the interests of great states; that a state may disregard all obligations, whether undertaken by treaties or prescribed by the common sentiment of mankind, and that what is called military necessity justifies every kind of harshness and cruelty in war."

Lord Bryce's conclusion is particularly interesting, as reflecting the views of that class of Englishman whom he so admirably typifies. He writes:

"I do not attribute to the German people an adherence to the former set of doctrines, for I do not know how far these doctrines are held outside those military and naval castes which now, unhappily, have gained control of the German policy, and I cannot believe that the German people as I hitherto have known them, ever since I studied at a German university more than fifty years ago, could possibly approve of the action of their Government if their Government suffered them to know the facts relating to the origin and conduct of the war as those facts are known to the rest of the world.

"We have had no hatred of the German people. We did not grudge them their prosperity; neither have we any wish to break up Germany, destroying her national unity, or to interfere in any way with her internal policy. Our quarrel is with the German Government."

SOBER BRITAIN.

Drunkenness Cut About 40 P. C. Says Lloyd George.

London Cable — Replying to-day to a deputation of the Temperance Council of Christian Churches, David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, said that the police records showed a reduction of something like forty per cent. in drunkennnehs throughout the country. He hoped the nation would be convinced that success in war largely depend upon removing the drag upon its efficiency caused by drink.

However successful in war the country might be, he added, he was convinced that victory in this matter would be the greatest triumph of all.

SOLDIER GOES TO JAIL.

Windsor, Ont., Report.—Geo. Handy sines a member of the 99th Battalion, who "borrowed" his brother-in-law's civilian suit a few weeks ago that he might cross to Detroit and marry, was found guilty of theft in the Police Court here to-day and sentenced to sixty days in Sanwdich jail.

HEROISM OF THE FRENCH AT CAURES WOOD

Graphic Story of One of the Most Desperate Struggles at Verdun.

COL. DRIANT'S END

Brave Commander of Chausseurs Chose Death to Being a Prisoner.

Paris Cable—An officer who has returned from the Verdun front gave the following description to-day of the battle for the possession of the Caures wood:

"The affair of the Caures wood is one of the most dramatic and most glorious episodes of the battle of Verdun. The chasseurs, who were charged with defending this part of the sector, were under the orders of Lieut.-Col. Driant. They have added a magnificent page to contemporary history by their unyielding gallantry.

"It was 7.15 in the morning of February 20 when the Germans commenced preparations for their attack. We had then been holding the trenches for four days, and our chief lieutenant, Col. Driant, was making a tour of inspection. We had one battalion on the firing line and another held in reserve at the Moronat farm. Everybody was immediately on the alert. The bombardment commenced with an unusual violence and our listening posts, according to orders, fell back on the first line, where we awaited an attack.

A DELUGE OF IRON.

"A storm of iron began to pass over. It was in fact more than a storm; it was a deluge. Our shelters, even the best constructed, were demolished. About 11 o'clock the post at which I was was wiped out under the hail of shells, and four chasseurs and one officer were buried in the debris. However, our men did not hesitate, but pressed forward to the aid of their wounded comrades as if it was simply a question of some common accident. Sergeant Caplain, with some assistance, rescued nine victims, and each one courageously prepared to face again the enemy. Under the fire of the enemy the soldiers labored to reinforce our fortifications in the wood. About 2 o'clock the effect of the bombardment were tremendous. There did not remain a single shelter worthy of the name. The officer next in command to Lieutenant-Col. Driant was seriously wounded and many of our chasseurs were also stricken. About 5 o'clock the enemy's artillery slackened its fire and we no longer suffered so much. The reason of this was that the Germans were about to hurl themselves on Haumont. The front ranks of the enemy were dressed in capes somewhat resembling ours, and they wore armlets similar to those of our men. This ruse was quickly seen through, and they received a warm welcome. However, at the end of a certain time they were able to penetrate our first line trenches and established themselves there. Counter-attacks were made by us during the whole night, and after hot grenade fighting our positions were practically maintained.

"On the 22nd the bombardment was resumed with the greatest violence. Our trenches, hampered by shells, were rapidly levelled, the communicating trenches were destroyed, and even the wood itself was mowed down in large spaces. However, our chasseurs maintained the same impassability.

"Towards midday we perceived large parties of the enemy, who after having advanced toward the wood of Haumont, turned towards the Caures wood with the intention of taking us in the rear. All our telephone communications had been destroyed the evening before, and we were no longer able to communicate with the main body of our troops except by couriers. Many volunteered for this service, but none of them ever returned. The devotion of our chasseurs was inexhaustible in these critical circumstances.

"The German attack increased in violence. A lieutenant sprang to the head of his company to repel the enemy. He was wounded in the hand immediately. He grasped it in his handkerchief and continued forward again crying 'Forward!' A second bullet cut the word short in his mouth. As he fell to the ground another officer leaped automatically forward to take his place. He had only gone a few yards when a bullet pierced his throat. The enemy, with very superior forces to ours, including an entire new brigade, swept down upon us. From the evening before until the morning our two battalions had suffered under a most murderous fire; the enemy was endeavoring to turn both our flanks and we fought with all our strength against this encircling movement. About 3.30 p. m. the situation became suddenly critical. The ring was tightening itself around us. The Germans had even brought up a big gun which was bombarding the very heart of our position. It was then that I was called to the post of Lieut.-Col. Driant.

HOW COL. DRIANT DIED.

"Col. Driant was stationed in the front line which he had not left since the opening of the attack. He was leaning on his gun surrounded by Commandant Renouard, Captain Vincent and Captain Hamel. Energetically, but calmly he declared to us: 'In a few more moments it will be necessary to die or to be taken prisoner.' He waited a little while and added, "I would prefer to die.' The tears flowed down his cheeks and we all wept. The most hardened of our chasseurs present at this scene were overwhelmed by emotion. Commandant Renouard assured himself that there was nothing more in the shelter which could be of any advantage to the enemy. All our archives and our plans had been burned on the 21st, and the order to retreat was given.

"Captain Renouard said: 'At least let us try to save some of these brave fellows.' 'Ah, well, let us save all that we can,' replied Captain Hamel. 'It will be so many more chasseurs who will be able to fight again tomorrow."

"Col. Driant then took each of his two battalion chiefs by the arm and all three held a council of war. We heard Captain Vincent say: 'It is hard.'

"Our retreat commenced, protected on the flank by a detachment of chasseurs. The heads of the column on leaving the wood were welcomed by a cross-fire from the enemy's mitrailleuses. It was of no use to attempt a reply, and the fragments of the section which were able to escape from that zone rallied at Haumont on the first line of our second position.

"Col Driant had wished to set out among the last. He was last seen by a chasseur who was cut off with him by the same storm of shells. After the bombardment had temporarily slackened Col. Driant made the chasseur leave first, crying to him: 'Good-bye and good luck.' He remained until he was certain that none of his men were left in the wood and has never been seen since.

"Before abandoning our position a mitrailleuse section destroyed its ammunition and succeeded in saving the guns. I estimate that in the fighting in the Caures wood we have accounted for at least 2,000 of the enemy in killed and wounded."

FOOD RIOTERS ROUND PALACE

Hungry Berlin Mobs Surround Royal Residence.

Conditions Are Growing Rapidly Worse.

London Cable says—Economic conditions in Germany are undoubtedly desperate. Serious food riots have taken place around the Kaiser's palace in Friedrichstrasse. The rioters, made furious by the lack of food, would not be silenced in their cries for sustenance, and the police were compelled to charge them with sabres.

News of Germany's economic plight continues to multiply. Travellers from continental points bring the same tale of misery and suffering. The Daily Express prints a despatch this morning from Amsterdam which confirms reports of the demonstrations around the Emperor's palace.

The despatch quotes a German business man who had just arrived from Berlin. He said that the victims of the police were numerous, but just what the number was he could not say. These riots, he declared, occurred on Monday just before his departure from the German capital.

The Daily Express informant describes conditions in Germany as "terrible," and that "food of every description was scarce."

It is the belief in Amsterdam that Germany perhaps can hold out six months more, but by August the war will have ceased. Germans arriving from Berlin are quoted as saying that "we cannot go on forever."

Information as to the real conditions in Germany is being rigidly suppressed by the Government. The Prussian "iron heel" is being daily felt more than ever, and this adds to the acuteness of the physical suffering of the inhabitants.

SUB. IN CHANNEL.

French Liner Louisiane Sunk by One, 'Tis Said.

A London Cable says—A Havas despatch from Havre says that the French Line steamship Louisiane sank last night at 11 o'clock. All the crew were saved. No passengers were aboard. It is presumed that the vessel was sunk by the same submarine as has been operating along the coast between Boulogne and Havre, and which torpedoed the Hermatrice.

The Louisiane had arrived from New Orleans, which port she left on Feb. 11, touching Newport News on Feb. 17 and leaving on the following day. The vessel was built in 1905 at Dunkirk and was owned by the Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique. She was of 5,109 tons gross, was 370 feet long and 47 feet beam. She had for many years been engaged in trans-Atlantic passenger service, mostly to ports in the Gulf of Mexico. No further details of the loss of the ship have been given out.

The allusion in the above despatch to a submarine operating along the English Channel between Boulogne and Havre is the first word that has been received here regarding the presence of a hostile craft on that part of the French coast. Available shipping records make no mention of a vessel named Hermatrice.

FUNDS FOR "DRY" CAMPAIGN.

Large funds for the purposes of their campaign are to be raised by the prohibitionists of Ontario, it was announced at a meeting under the auspices of the Committee of One Hundred held in the Y.M.C.A. yesterday. Already about $50,000 has been expended, but that is a moiety of what the committee requires. A new fund will be opened at once by which it is proposed to raise $125,000 for a vigorous campaign in the constituencies, for the committee also decided to abandon the plan of organization by counties followed in the petition-signing campaign and to reorganize the prohibition forces by constituencies.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Several Steamers for Norway Missing—Believed to be Victims of Mines.

ENVER NOT MURDERED

Rev. James Walker, Veteran Methodist Pastor, is Dead at Guelph.

Colors, the gift of Mayor Church, were presented to the 75th Battalion in Toronto.

Speakers in the Legislature favored wiping out the bars without a referendum.

Mrs. Michael Burke was fatally injured when struck by a street car in Peterboro.

Rabbi Jacobs, speaking before the Empire Club, in Toronto, said 17,000 Jews are in the trenches.

Rev. James Walker, a Methodist pastor for more than fifty-three years in Ontario, died at Guelph, aged 80.

The Turkish Legation at Athens denied reports that Enver Pasha, Turkish Minister of War, had been assassinated.

A Sandwich jury valued Michael Jaroshinsky's arm at $1,254, awarding him that much for its loss in an accident last year.

Thomas D. Gray, Shedden Forwarding Co.'s agent in London for forty years, died suddenly in his seventy-ninth year.

A Reuter's despatch from Malmos says the Swedish steamship Martha has struck two mines within Swedish waters of Falsterbo. The crew was saved.

Brigadier-General Logie, in orders, declares that commanding officers who cannot maintain discipline in battalions are not fit men to take them overseas.

Heart-failure caused the sudden death at Chatham of Thomas Coatsworth, a prominent retired farmer of Romney Township. He was almost 75 years of age.

John Aris, a lineman, was electrocuted while at work in Belleville, smoke from a passing engine probably obscuring the wires so that he touched one carrying 2,200 volts.

The Street Railway Commissioners of Brantford have promised their employees an increase of wages within a few weeks. The request for shorter hours for the men will be dropped.

The appointment and personnel of three Royal Commissions to investigate J. E. Bradshaw's charges against Liberal members of the Saskatchewan Legislature, were announced by Acting Premier Calder.

Arthur Bastien, twenty years old, of Sandwich, held on a serious charge preferred by Lena Lesperance, aged 18, living on Langlois avenue, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

A Christiania despatch to the Copenhagen Politiken says the Norwegian steamship Memona and several other vessels bound from England for Norway are missing. It is feared they have been sunk by mines.

Despondent because of ill-health, David Frizley, aged 30, a barber, committed suicide at the home of his father, Richard Frizley, at Saltford, near Goderich, by cutting his throat with a razor.

MAJORITY NEEDED FOR PROHIBITION

Toronto Report.—"Any vote that may be required by this Government will be from the voters who have elected us as a Government and the members of the Legislature to the positions that they now occupy, and will be a simple majority vote," was the unequivocal announcement made by Premier Hearst in his speech to the large temperance deputation which crowded the reception room at the Parliament Buildings yesterday afternoon.

Mr. E. P. Clement, K. C., Berlin, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of One Hundred, in presenting the address to the Government, stated: "Our first petition is for the adoption of prohibition by the Government without a referendum. If it seems desirable to the Government, after having considered the whole situation, to enact a temporary measure of prohibition until the end of the war and to provide for the submission of the question to the people after the war, such a measure would be in complete harmony with the wishes of your petitioners."

After the Premier had delivered his reply, the attitude of the deputationists caused some amusement, and the proceedings partook of the nature of polling a jury. There were calls of "Hanna," and the Provincial Secretary smilingly obeyed the request for remarks; then came demands in turn for Messrs. Lucas, McGarry, Ferguson, Duff, McDiarmid and Preston, and each had to speak. This method of extracting the opinions of the individual Ministers was regarded by not a few as pretty astute business.

The engagement had just been announced. "All the men tell me you are a thoroughly good fellow," she said. "Oh, don't let that worry you," he replied. "I expect to reform after we are married.