THREE GERMAN DIVISIONS USED TO RETAKE FRESNOY

Foe Paid a Terrible Price for the Place Taken From the British

35 Hun Divisions Wasted on This Front Since First of April.

(By Perry Robinson.)

British Headquarters in France, course of yesterday's action has reach. Cable The loss of Fresnoy yesterday is, I believe, the first instance in carried out a detailed operation which the battles either on the Somme or enabled us to carry a German trench Arras that any village, after being on a front of 400 metres and take 100 firmly in our hands, for 24 hours, has prisoners including two officers. been won back by the Germans, but such a thing was bound to happen ferent regiments." sooner or later, provided the enemy was willing to use troops enough. Though it may sound absurd to say it, perhaps it is just as well it hap. it, perhaps it is just as well it hapgened. A glance at the map will show that, as the enemy held the trench lines north and northwest of Fresnoy on the front from Acheville to Mericourt, as well as the Oppy part of the trenches north of that point, Fresnoy was a dangerously expended position.

The German attacks were made with a vastly greater weight of men than we ever use. The troops notmally holding the German line at Fresnoy were the 15th Reserve division and the 4th Guard division on the right of Acheville. The first attack, made early in the morning, was preceded by a heavy bombardment, ordinary and gas shells being used. Then a joint attack was made by the 15th Reserve and 4th Guard divisions. which latter had been slipped down from Acheville. Apparently both bodies, but certainly the Guards, came on in solid masses. Their losses were tremendous: By weight of numbers they reached our trenches, only to be immediately driven out, what was left of them suffered badly from our guns and machine guns in retiring.

Meanwhile, besides these two divi sions, Germans brought a third, namely, the 5th. Bavarian division. which i had been kept in reserve. The second attack was deilvered by this entirely fresh division which again came in solid formation. Our men, worn out. were compelled to give ground before the enemy's overwhelming strength. But it was these same tired men who a few hours later recovered a large part of the ground yielded. The enemy losses were so heavy that if we had used up every man we had in the field we should not have approached them. f operations cost us ground we have is not true on parts of the front. a large credit of man power to balance again attacking heavily and uselessly. notably at Gavrelle windmill. Apart | clares: from these local efforts the situation on the whole line continues to be quiet. The new high-velocity German field gun of which we heard so much from the German prisoners does not seem to have reached this front or is not yet noticeably effective.

HUGE ENEMY LOSSES London Cable-The Reuter correspondent at British headquarters in France sends the following:

"From north of Fresnoy to the windmill at Gravelle Germans have made prodigal use of their reserves in the last 24 hours in an endeavor to press us back, but their attempts were broken up by our intense artillery fire, mostly before they got within bombing distance of our posi-

Some idea of what this fighting is costing the enemy may be gained from the fact that since April 1 it would appear that over 35 German divisions have been withdrawn on this front exhausted. It is understood that the existing strength of the German army on the western front is 157 divisions, in computing their total strength, however, it should be borne in mind that about three-quarters of the enemy divisions now consist of point of view. But the public is still only three regiments or about 9,000 grasping for accurate knowledge of the

BRITISH REPORT. London Cabie-The official communication, isanad this evening, says: "There was loos! fighting during the day in the neighborhood of Bulle. court in the course of which a party of the enemy, while attempting to ad. vance to the attack across the open. was caught by our machine gun fire and suffered houvy esqualties.

There had been considerable artillery activity on both sides at intervais during the day north-west of St. Quentifi and in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, Wancourt and Arleux

An earlier report read: "Last night our troops advanced their position slightly north-east of

Hargicourt ... "Yesterday evening the enemy attacked our positions north-east of the Gavrelle village. The attack was broken up by our barrage and macaine gun fire and completely re-

bulsed "At the same time hostile forces concentrating for an attack north of Presnoy were dispersed by our artiliery tire.

West of Fresnoy we improved our position during the night by a counterattack. A portion of the ground iost yesterday morning has been rezained. Early this morning an enemy raiding party was driven off east of Armentieres (on the Franco-Bel-

gian border)." FRENCH REPORT.

the War Office reads: ried out effective fires on the organ- the Realm Act should they disclose izations and batteries of the Germans secrets.

in the St. Cobain forest. was spirited artiflery activity. On the Chemin don Dames there day's session was very large.

The official report of the secret session issued to-night says that Winston Spencer Churchill opened the discounted for. The Detroit was not seried the conquered ground and repulsed don and dealt with the general military counter attacks. The lary cituation, with special reference done in the sunker craft was not seried to and dealt with the general military counter attacks. The lary cituation, with special reference done in the discounted for. The Detroit was not seried to and dealt with the general military cituation, with special reference done in the special reference was not seried to a special reference was n

number of prisoners made in the

"To the north-west of Rheims we These prisoners belonged to four dif-

HUNS FOR WEST

Troops' Fraternizing

With German Soldiers On the Front.

Petrograd Cable. - It is reported that at least twenty German divisions (about 300,000 men) have been transfront as the result of the fraternizing of the soldiers of the two armies. of the soldiers of the two armies. During the Russian Easter, it is stated, a dance was held between trenches to gramaphone music, at one part of the

It is necessary to have an exact understanding of the spirit that animates this fraternizing and of the extent to which it prevails. To estimate its exact importance it must be accepted as the newest angle the war has

The fact exists and every indication goes to show that this fraternizing of opposing troops at the front is extensive-ine Russians have proved in

"We have fired, and always will fire, on the enemy, even on those advancing toward us in the attempt to fraternize. We consider any other attitude toward the enemy to be cowardly and treacherous. We will not fire on our own men who go to fraternize with the enemy, because every Russian soldier is needed. Those who wish to fraternize are not traitors; they are only weak, undecided, and overconfid-

attached to the infantry, which de-

This appeal proves that many soldiers regard the Germans as "false brothers." and think their attempts to trateraize with the Russians are deceitful. The whole spirit of the anpeal shows that fraternizing is not alare some points at least where the

Russian artillery is active. Opinion is divided as to whether an attempt should be made to suppress this fraternization because its extent makes the outcome of the war more doubtful, or to take advantage of it number of guns taken in the Somme port, but suddenly, about ten days of the Council of War. and so spread dissension in the German armies. If the Germans are realand is acceptable from a military extent to which the Russian soldiers are meeting the enemy as brothers. The rublic fears the Germans are only preteuding friendship, as indicated by it is impossible of course to give General Gucko and told in these de- figures, but there is no disputing the spatches. Less conspicuous incidents, fact that they have been terrible and similar in character to the fraternizing, have occurred on many parts of

NO FEAR OF

Lloyd George Addresses House Secret Session.

ing in 1918.

London Cable says-The secret session of the British Commons to-day was begun after the question had been asked, the galleries being cleared. There is a simple rule under which the House may be cleared of strangers. A member of the Government rises in his place and utters the formula: "I spy strangers," whereupon officials clear the galleries and seal the doors. Strangers also are asked Paris (able-The official commun- to leave the lobbies and precincts of ication issued Wednesday night by the House. Members do not take any e War Office reads:
South of the Oise our artillery carceeded against under the Defence of

The attendance of members at to-

to the position in Russia, the development of the struggle on the western front, the strength of the United States and the questions arising out of the submarine attacks.

"The losses of personnel and maerial," the statement continues, "was commented on and the general diplomatic situation in the Balkans discussed. Suggestions were made meeting the submarine danger, further information was asked erning marine losses and

General Henry Page Croft and George James Wardle continued, the

"The Premier dealt seriatim and fully with the points Mr. Churchill raised. He commented upon the internal situation in Austria, and the military position of Germany, in respect to her reserves, contrasting it unfavorably with our own. He cited opinions of the British and French military chiefs in satisfaction at the results of the recent combined operations on the western front. "The Premier then explained how

Office demands for further reserves and also gave figures of the British tonnage sunk month by month since last August, and gave an encouraging account of the methods adopted to meet the submarine attacks. He announced the figures of the new tonnage, which could and would be built during the next twelve months .-"Upon the food question the Premier pointed out that with judiciers economy in consumption and increased productivity in home supplies there need be no alarm as to starva-

was proposed to satisfy the War

no necessity to restate the allies' war That is Result of Russ aims, which were well known and were the same as had been repeatedly stated during the last two years. "Herbert H. Asquith (the former Premier), who followed Mr. Lloyd George, expressed his full agreement with the Premier but deprecated the secrecy of the sitting, in which, he affirmed, hardly anything had been said which could not have been said openly. He concluded by inviting the Premier to publish to the country the greater part of his speech."

tion, and that in 1918 we should be

self-supporting. There appeared to him

SAME DEFEATS

Says Gen. Maurice About German Claims,

sive—the Russians have proved in every phase of the revolution that they are quick at spreading any accepted idea. Reports state there has been no firing on long stretches at the front for more than a week. But this is not true on parts of the front.

London Cable—"Bodies of Teutored the point other than a week. But this is not true on parts of the front.

London Cable—"Bodies of Teutored the point other than a weekly statement to-day, "continually have been expected that the British over the military parts, always brutal, and with an asteunding ignorance of public opinion and of moral sentiment, despite the front.

The extent of the effectiveness of despats of the front to public on that the part of the first lust of war, but the line when it might termined to put these idle men to have been expected that they would work. The proof of this is the appeal of have been expected that they would elsewhere on the line. The enemy is the Eighth Artillery Brigade to be give way, and have inflicted tremen-

ploying people from Belgium, Poland rel; von Biesing went to Berlin to even German officers are now said to templated, while the so-called. and other conquered territory to re- protest, threatened to resign, but did be ashdmed. lease more Germans for military ser- not. He returned, and a German ofvice. The British have forced the ficial here said that Belgium would Germans to use up twice as many re- now be subjected to a more carrible serves as were employed in the regime-would learn what war was. Somme offensive, which ranks next to The prophecy has been fulfilled. the present one in magnitude.

"The Germans," he continued, in the Etape, at Ghent and at Bruges, "claimed that by their so-called The policy spread; the rich industrial strategical retreat they inflicted a districts of Hainaut, the mines and great defeat on the British in respect steel works about Charleroi were next to their plans and that the Teutons held the situation in their own hands. Let me point again to the fact that the British plens for the Arras offensive were completed in February, before the German retreat together general at the front. There began. Despite the German claims. we have continued our offensive according to the plans prepared."

offensive. The British and French ago, certain men in town, whose The Mcscow executive committee of tain are almost uniformly disc. ragbetween them have captured some names are on the list of chomeurs. the Workmen's and Soldiers' Deleing Not even the oldest farmer rethe latter course is considered possible this is the result of a defeat, then report at one of the railway stations we are willing to go on being defeated. We save kept on going, and are going to keep on going. The Arras offensive is much bigger than the Somme, and our next offensive will be bigger than Arras.

"Regarding the German casualties, incomparably larger than ours." Gen. Maurice was asked whether the Germans appeared to have withdrawn troops from the eastern front for use in the west.

He replied there was no indication of this. On being asked whether the for relief in Beigium had secured per-Russian crisis was causing any un mission to give each deported men a his newspaper New Life, foreshadows more still awaiting a favorable easiness in Allied military circles, he loaf of bread, and some of the comuneasiness until the new Government those who had none, and in addition is firmly on its feet. But it must be a small financial allowance. As by remembered that even had there been no revolution the Russians could not has been more excessively cold than have started an offensive before this, because of the condition of the ground, due to the Russian winter. As a matter of fact, conditions are Britain to Be Self-Support- not yet favorable for operations in the

SHIPS COLLIDE.

One Man Missing in Detroit River Mishap.

Detroit, Report.—The Wabash railroad car ferry Detroit, bound down, was in collision with the steamer Plankington, bound up, off the foot of Third Street, at 9.30 o'clock to-night. The latter vessel was so badly damaged that it is believed she cannot long remain afloat. One man is reported missing.

The Plankington was bound up with coal, and in some manner as yet not clear sheered suidenly into the Detroit, which was crossing the river from Declear sheered studenty into the Detroit, which was crossing the river from Detroit to Windsor. The impact was terrific, and the Plankington, which is a vessel of old wooden type, slowly backed away into the stream, her nows flattened in the water pouring into her from both sides. She went down in 50 feet of water within a few minutes.

U. S. MINISTER REPORTS UPON **ATROCITIES**

Brand Whitlock. Minister to Belgium, Exposes Real German Spirit.

GERMAN BRUTALITY

Has Lead to a Great Many Blunders and to Great Bitterness.

The following despatch from Brand Whitlock, American Minister to Belgium, written in January, has been issued for publication by the U.S. department of State at Washington. In order to fully understand the

situation it is necessary to go back to the autumn of 1914. At the time we were organizing the relief work, the Comite National—the Belgian relief organization that collaborates with the commission for relief in Belgium-proposed an arrangement by which the Belgian Government abould pay to its own employees left in Belgium, and other unemployed men besides, the wages they had been accustomed to receive. The Belgians wished to do this both for humanitarian and patriotic purposes; they wished to provide the unemployed with the means of livelihood, and, at the same time. to prevent their working for the Germans. The policy was adopted, and has been continued in practise, and on the rolls of the Comite National have been borne the names of hundreds of thousands—some 700,000, 1 believe -cf idle men receiving this dole, distributed through the com

sought to chiain the lists of the chomeurs, but were always foiled by the They have dealt a mortal blow to vention to use.

"The Germans have harled great is said to have criticised von Bissing's German soldiers are said to have wept reserves into the Arras conflict, em-

The deportations began in October attacked, now they are seizing men in Brabant, even in Brussels, despite some indication and even predictions of the civil authorities, that the policy was about to be abandoned.

During the last fortnight men have been impressed here in Brussels, but their seizures here are made evidently "During the month since the offen- with much greater care than in the received summonses notifying them to gates is opposed to the idea of a coali-report at one of the railway stations tion Covernment, and advocates the through which he has just been passes on a given day; penalties were fixed immediate summoning of an all-Rus- through which he has just been passed for failure to respond to the summons, sion congress of soldiers' and work- ing. A late sowing, a poor yield, a and there was printed on the card an men's delegates. offer of employment by the German The Provisional Government will, pron rotoxed by a spring with all however, insist on coaffition in order the marked characteristics of Lecom-1.500 men ordered to present themselves at the Gare du Midi, about 750 taken. There was no disorder a large possible return to despetism. force of mounted Uhlans keeping back the crowds and barring access to the summened to appear. The commission | ter. is in the pay of Afgio-French | Tasowing in April. In man; cases the "Naturally there must be some | munes provided warm clothing for those who had none, and in addition delegates will endeador to actrieve a small financial allowance. As by their position. The council is very the large that year, that cannot yet one of the ironies of life, the winter angry at the course of recent events. Belgium has ever known it, and while many of those who presented themselves were adequately protected against the cold, many or them were without overcoats. The men shivering from cold and fear, the parting from weeping wives and children, the bar riers of brutal Uhlans, all this made the scene a pitiable and distressing

It was understood that the seizures would continue here in Brussels, but on Thursday last, a bitterly cold day, those that had been convoked were

poured into Brussels. The delegates of the commission of relief in Belgium. cruelty and sorrow attending the seiz-

us to exercise all possible tact in dealing with the subjects at all and, secondly, because there is no means of communication between the Occupations Gebiet and the Etappen Gebiet. Transportation everywhere in Belgium is difficult, the vidinal railways scarcely operating any more because of the lack of oil, while all the horses have been taken. The people who are forced to go from one village to another must do go on foot or in vans drawn by the few miserable horses that are left. The wagons of the breweries, the one institution that the Germans have scrupulously respected,

are hauled by oxen. The well-known tendency of sensational reports to exaggerate themselves, especially in time of war, and in a situation like that existing here, with no newspapers to serve as a daily clearing house for all the rumons that are as avidly believed as they are eagerly repeated, should of course be considered, but even if a modicum of all that is told is true, there still remains enough to stamp this deed as one of the foulest that history records. I am constantly in receipt of reports from all over Belgium that tend to bear out the stories one constantly hears of brutality and cruelty. A number of men sent back to Mons are said to be in a dying condition, many of them tubercular. At Malines and at Antwerp returned men have died, their friends asserting that they have been victims of neglect and cruelty, of

cold, exposure, of hunger. I have had requests from the burgomasters of ten communes from La discussion of any of the technical fea-Louviere, asking that permission be tures of the plan, but it is within obtained to send to the deported men bounds to make the following anin Germany packages of food similar | nouncement, which should be of the to those that are being sent to prison- greatest interest to the British and ers of war. Thus far the German au- French commissions here as well as thorities have refused to permit this to the general public. except in special instances, and returning Belgians claim that even when such packages are received, they are is theoretically sound and which is a used by the camp authorities only as radical departure from any invention another means of coercing them to put into operation or heretofore sign the agreements to work.

It is said that in spite of the liboral salary promised those who would sign leading inventive geniuses in the Unvoluntarily no money has as yet been fied States navy, is the inventor. received in Delgiani from workman in

One interculing result of the deportations remains to be noted, a result the guidance of naval officers from owever, was a constant temptation | Cerman emestry for blandering, al- vice which will show definitely wheth-

claim that under the guarantees coverany respect they may ever have had. The invention is of such a character ering the relief work the reservis of of being tolorized by the population that it can be put into operation in the Comite National and it various of Planders; in tearing away from the wer zone almost immediately. It sub-organizations were immune. Rath | nearly e ery humbis home in the land | resulted no claborate preparation or In His Weekly Summary of Conditions.

In His Weekly Summary of Conditions.

London Cable—"Bodies of Teutons," said Gen. Maurice, in his weekly with the burgumasters of the companies of the burgumasters of the companies of the c pointed to the surreme command. He affectly exceuted , added so cruel that clicks from limited shores to a broad

RUSZKY LOSES HIS COMMAND

Russ General Superseded On Northern Front.

Opposition to Coalition Government Forms.

Petrograd Cable-General Ruszky sive began, we have taken twice the provinces, with more regard for the has been removed from the chief comnumber of prisoners, four times the appearances. There are no public mand of the army on the northern amount of ground and five times the announcement of the intention to de front. He remains, nowever, a member of the Accociated Press).—Reports of

gium. On the first day, out of about to force the Socialists to share in the ber. responsibility of the government of the large state of the fields is called in country. They have repeated the appeal the agricultural reports "serious," ar responded. These were examined by recently issued warning the people though it is still possible that a period German physicians and 300 were against anarchy and civil war, with a of warm weather might change the Maxim Gorky, whose anti-British May. The history of many of the best entbursts and assertions that Dr. Fau. of the British crops this year is a station to all but those who had been Milukoff, the Russian foreign minist story of sowing in November and

another political crisis, in which the assume seeing was decroyed com-Council of Workingmen's and Soldiers | 1

ALLY LABOR MEN

London in June.

mentary correspondent writes: At a Moreover, there is a considerable meeting last night or the national executive of the Labor party an invitation from the Dutch section of the International Socialist Bureau to the British Labor party to attend a Socialist conference at Stockholm was considered. The executive decided that it could not associate itself in any way with the tivation should proceed at once, a proposed conference, as the calling of good seed bed could andoubtedly be cited by this measure all over Bel- the Stockholm conference by the Dutch made. section was irregular. The conference apparently has no definite object in view, and will possess no mandate. In view of the present circumstances of returning to Brussels, told the most the war, the fact that Russia is reordistressing stories of the scenes of ganizing to achieve liberty, and the decision of the United States of America ures. And daily, hourly almost, since to throw its weight into the balance to that time, appalling stories have been secure universal and lasting peace on related by Belgians coming to the legation. It is impossible for us to verify the basis of international life, the national life, the national progress and joined the strike basis of international life, the national progress and joined the strike basis of international life, the national progress and joined the strike basis of international life, the national progress and joined the strike basis of international life, the national life, the natio them, first, because it is necessary for cannot risk any such undertaking.

FOR THE U-BOAT

U. S. Naval Experts Amazed at the Invention

Which Can Be Put to Work in Short Time.

Washington Cable says-It was learned last night on unquestionable authority that the Naval Consulting Board has admitted to Secretary Daniels and his advisers a definite and completed plan to cope with the German U-boats which has proved a revelation to the best technical brains in the service here.

It was this plan which W. L. Saunders, chairman of the board, had reference to when he announced on Saturday that he believed the submarine problem solved. Heads of various branches of the navy who have admittedly been sceptical and believed Mr. Saunders too optimistic have unanimously changed their views since the meeting at the home of Secretary Daniels Wednesday night.

Strict censorship necessarily bars

The plan is based on a novel antisubmarine device or invention which thought of.

Elmer A. Sperry, inventor of the gyrescope compass and one of the Within two or three weeks the

Navy Department will have completed practical tests of the invention under The presence of these unemployed, that once may places in relief the various technical branches in the sero German capidity. Many times they most as great as the German capacity or or not there is any unforeseen obistacle in the way of putting the in-

and system- derend merely on extending

BRITISH CROP OUTLOOK POOR

Reports Are Almost Uni formly Discouraging.

Much Autumn Sowing Com pletely Wasted.

London Cable - (Correspondence the agricultural outlook in Great Briwet Lutumn and a severe winter, have

situation considerably by the and of

be estimated, and barley for come learn is in delayer, although on got of barley hance, there is yet a could

eren to grow. I moment to push ahead their planting And Socialists, to Confer in Everything is late. The farmers' calendar is out of gear, for the farmer must wait upon the weather. Potato planting in normal years is completed in England by mid-April. and the London, Cable.—The Times Parila- same may be said of barley and oats. scarcity of seed, owing to the wide destruction of autumn sown crops, and there are appeals for economy in seed

> The severe winter has undoubtedly left some of the more troublesoms soils more pliant and free, and if cui-

> Owing to the shortage of cattle foodstuffs, there will be a large reduction in numbers of livestock on the farms during the next three months.

"The trouble with my boy Josh is hat he's always ahead of the times." remarked Farmer Corntossel. "What has he done?" "Went to town to see about a position. He found a strike