



VICTORY IN NORTH SEA FIGHT CLAIMED BY GERMANS AND BRITISH; DESTROYERS CLASH

London Asserts Four English Ships Chase Three Teuton Craft Back to Base at Zeebrugge in Running Fight Off Belgian Coast

Berlin Says Britons Fled When Torpedoboats Were Struck by Shells—Admit Foe's Fire Did Some Damage—English Reports Four Sailors Were Wounded—U-Boats Off Sweden

LONDON, March 21. Three German torpedo destroyers were defeated in a running battle with four British vessels of the same type off the Belgian coast on Monday. Official announcement of the battle, the first sea clash in the North Sea for many months, was issued by the Admiralty today.

BERLIN, March 21.—German destroyers defeated British destroyers in a naval battle off the coast of Belgium yesterday, the Admiralty announced today. After several direct hits by the German gunners the enemy withdrew from the engagement, the official statement says.

COPENHAGEN, March 21.—A number of British submarines have been sighted south of the Cattegat, says the Dagens Nyheter. The presence of the British war craft off the Swedish coast caused a sensation in Sweden.

RUSSIANS WIN ON BOTH ENDS OF EAST DRIVE

Von Hindenburg Beaten and Retiring in North, Berlin Dispatch Admits

VICTORY IN GALICIA

LONDON, March 21.—Distinct Russian victories at both ends of the 800-mile eastern battle front are reported this afternoon.

The battering of heavy Russian guns against von Hindenburg's front in the north has forced the Germans to withdraw from a salient south of Naroc Lake. The German War Office admitted the retreat in an official statement this afternoon, declaring a retreat was necessary to avoid annihilation of German troops by the Russian advance.

General Kuropatkin, Russian commander-in-chief in the Japanese war, commanded the army that forced the German retreat.

A few hours earlier came admission from the Austrian War Office of an important Russian victory in southeastern Galicia, 25 miles northeast of Czernowitz. The strongly fortified Usteczevo bridgehead position, an Austrian bulwark for six months of heavy fighting, was surrendered to the Russians after a desperate seven hours' artillery and infantry battle.

The German War Office admitted that the Russians are making heavy attacks on a wide front in the Riga-Dvinsk sector, despite heavy losses. It is considered certain here that the power of the new Russian offensive will force the withdrawal of German troops from the western front and possibly end the Verdun offensive.

Following is the text of the official German report: The Russians are extending their attacks to the northernmost end of the front. South of Riga they were repulsed with sanguinary losses and also on the Duna River (Dvina) and west of Jakobstadt.

Strong reconnoitering detachments advanced against the German lines northwest of Postavy and between Naroc Lake and Wigniew Lake and delivered attacks both day and night, but failed to achieve any success.

Because of the distance which it protruded, our salient on the front south of Lake Naroc was withdrawn a few hundred yards toward the heights of Blisnicki in order to avoid the circling fire of the enemy.

THE WEATHER FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Generally cloudy and somewhat warmer tonight and Wednesday; gentle variable winds.

GERMANS SWEEP FOES FROM WEST OF MEUSE

French Admit Loss of Positions at Malancourt, Northwest of Verdun

TEUTONS SUFFER MUCH

BERLIN, March 21. All the French positions, northeast of Avocourt wood, have been captured by storm by the Germans. It was officially announced today by the German War Office.

The Germans captured 32 officers and 2500 men there. Counter-attacks by the French were unsuccessful. Avocourt wood lies at the southeastern edge of Malancourt forest, about seven miles northwest of Verdun on the west bank of the Meuse.

Two of the captured officers were commanders of regiments. Following is the text of the official report: West of the Meuse Bavarian regiments and battalions of the Wurttemberg landwehr, after careful preparations, captured by storm the entire position of the French northeast of Avocourt. In addition to considerable losses the enemy lost 32 officers and more than 2500 men in prisoners. All were unwounded. Two of the officers were commanders of regiments. We also captured much war material.

Counter-attacks failed to bring the enemy any advantage. On the contrary, we inflicted serious losses upon him. East of the Meuse the positions are unchanged.

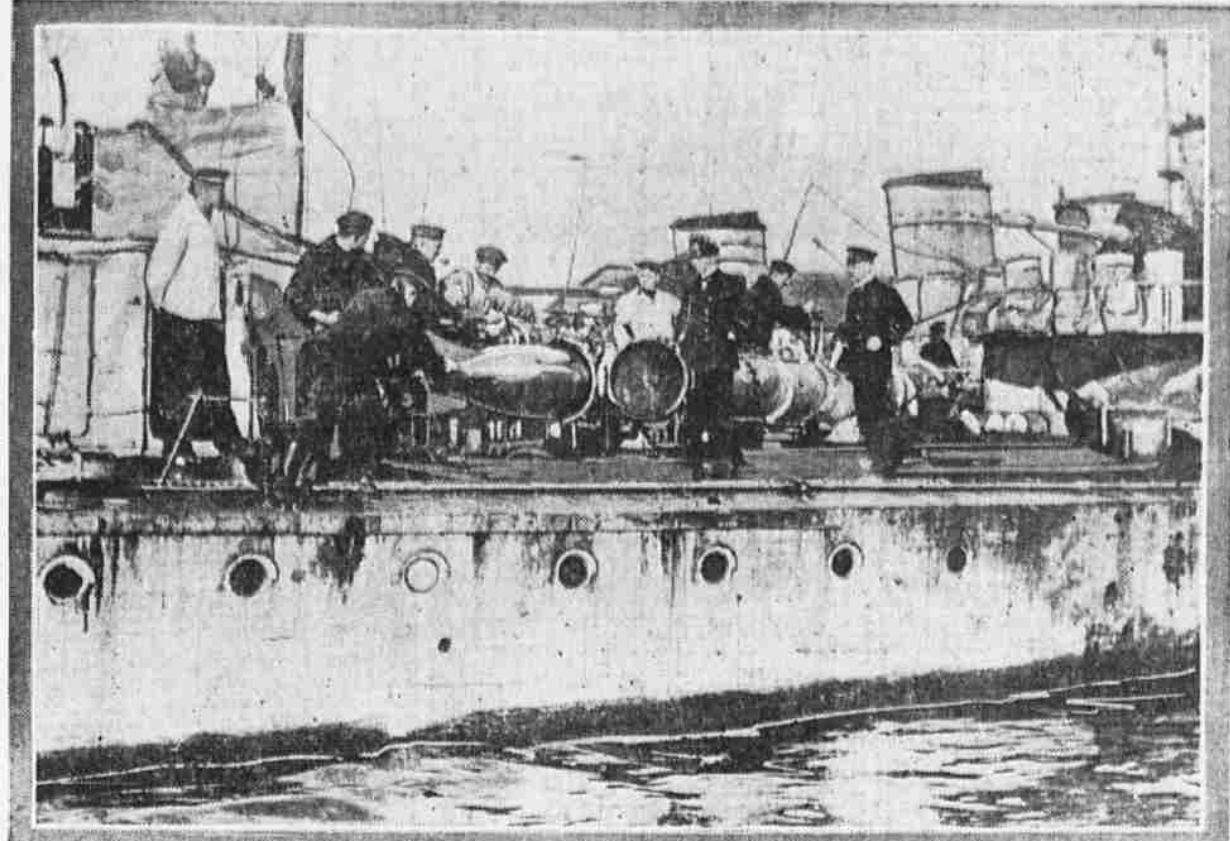
PARIS, March 21.—The terrific attacks of the Germans against the French positions in Malancourt woods, northwest of Verdun, were continued throughout the night.

From their new positions in the eastern part of the wood the Germans launched violent assaults against the French lines in the southeastern part, known as Avocourt wood, which they finally succeeded in taking, although they suffered enormous losses.

The Germans were kept by the furious fire of the French artillery from debouching into the wood. All the efforts of the enemy to debouch from the woods were checked.

The night was quiet in the other sectors of the Verdun region. Children March From Burning School LANCASTER, Pa., March 21.—Fire this morning in the basement of the New Street Public School Building started from a heater. Putting into effect the fire drill the teachers, Miss Florence Marx, Sarah Hoak, Edith Cooper and Catherine Brown, marshaled the 300 children in safety from the building, which was saved by the firemen's timely arrival.

GERMAN AND BRITISH DESTROYERS IN FIGHT OFF BELGIUM



The picture reveals a deck scene on one of the German destroyers having Zeebrugge, Belgium, as a base. Three of these vessels are reported to have engaged four British destroyers. Each side declares the other fled. Four British sailors were wounded.

VON TIRPITZ'S BRAIN SHIPWRECKED ON WOE'S ROCKS BY U-BOAT HORRORS

By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD PARIS, March 21.—Admiral von Tirpitz has become a physical and mental wreck by brooding over the deaths of scores of his closest friends in the German navy, according to reports in general circulation in diplomatic and military circles in Luzerne and Berne.

A high Swiss military authority, who credits the reports, gave me some of the information that has reached him recently, just before I left Berne.

"Von Tirpitz," he said, "resembles in sensitiveness the great Japanese military leader, who, overwhelmed by the memory of vast losses of Japanese soldiers he sent against Port Arthur, committed suicide upon the death of the late Japanese Emperor. Von Tirpitz has died a thousand deaths since the war began. He has bade farewell to hundreds of splendid young submarine officers, who went out to perish miserably under the water. The code among German submariners requires that they shoot themselves when the situation of their U-boat becomes hopeless. Von Tirpitz has pictured to himself—

176 METHODIST PASTORS CERTAIN TO HOLD PLACES

Bishop Berry Announces There Will Be 148 Possible Changes

FULL LIST TOMORROW

Several important changes in the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church became known today while Bishop Berry and his cabinet, in executive session, were making appointments at St. James' Church, Olney.

The Rev. Dr. G. Bickley Burns, pastor of the Calvary Church, will be appointed superintendent of the North District. He will be succeeded by the Rev. Dr. E. E. Helm, of the Central Church, Wilkes-Barre, who, in turn, will be succeeded by the Rev. William H. Lindemuth, of the Potomac Church. The Rev. William Q. Bennett, superintendent of the Anthracite Mission, will succeed the Rev. Doctor Lindemuth.

The Rev. Dr. J. G. Wilson, brother of Director Wilson, will become a district superintendent. It was said on good authority, his appointment as a bishop at the General Conference is regarded as probable. His pastorate is the Union Church, taken by the Rev. Dr. J. G. Bickerton, superintendent of city mission work.

Another man slated for a district superintendency is the Rev. Dr. George W. Henison, campaign manager of the Conference Claimants' Fund, who will be succeeded by the Rev. Dr. J. D. C. Hanna, pastor of the Twenty-ninth Street Church.

Continued on Page Six, Column One

VILLA ELUDES FOE AND GAINS HILLS, IS FEAR

Outlaw Bands Give Pursuers the Slip, Report at El Paso

REPORTED GOING NORTH

Possible He Has Not Yet Won Mountains—U. S. Forces Close In

EL PASO, Tex., March 21.—General Pershing advised his Columbus headquarters by wireless today that Carranza troops yesterday administered a severe defeat to Villa's forces. Villa was reported in Pershing's radio messages to have retreated into the Santa Clara Mountains.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 21.—The army quartermaster at Columbus reported this forenoon that 27 auto-trucks had been sent forward into Mexico yesterday and that 27 more were ready to leave at once. Indications are that it will soon be possible to send forward all the supplies that can be handled at Columbus.

Latest reports from El Paso indicate that Francisco Villa, hunted by Mexican and American forces, has escaped the net in the Namiquipa region and has gained safety in the Sierra Madres.

Communications have been cut off between the Carranza headquarters in Juarez and the troops reported to be moving on the outlaws. Neither has word been received since early today from the American forces moving southward to block escape of Villistas.

Confirmation of the reports to El Paso is lacking. If Villa has not yet gained the mountain fastnesses, the situation, based on this morning's advice is that he is fleeing northward after having been beaten by Carranzistas at Namiquipa and Las Cruces and that he is fast moving into the path of the American forces. In that case, his escape is cut off.

It is stated that all the mountain passes to the Sonora District on the west are guarded strongly by commands under General Calles, who declares that it is utterly impossible for Villa to enter Sonora.

It is possible that Villa might have escaped toward the east, but his course has more likely been westward to the country he knows best.

The United States, after a meeting of the President's Cabinet today, decided to accept the Carranza proposals for a protocol, the terms of

TOBACCO FRAUDS ROB NATION OF MILLIONS

Indictments Against Hundreds of Manufacturers Expected

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Nation-wide tobacco frauds, by which the Government has been swindled out of many millions of dollars in revenues, have been uncovered by agents of the Treasury Department. It was announced today.

Continued on Page Fifteen, Column Two

QUICK NEWS

ELECTRIC COMPANY GIVES BONUS TO EMPLOYEES SCHENECTADY, N. Y., March 21.—The General Electric Company today announced a bonus of 5 per cent. on its earnings to all employees who have been with the company five years. This means a distribution of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMAN NOT NAMED CHICAGO, March 21.—The subcommittee of the Republican National Committee today adjourned without naming a temporary chairman for the national convention which begins here June 7. The subcommittee will meet again in April to complete arrangements for the convention.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE ISPAHAN IN PERSIAN DRIVE PETROGRAD, March 21.—The capture of Ispahan, the important Persian town which became the goal of the Russians following the capture of Kirman-shah, is announced in an official dispatch received from Teheran today. The Russian forces entered Ispahan on Sunday.

ALLIES' WARSHIPS CONTINUE TO SHELL DARDANELLES CONSTANTINOPLE, March 21.—That Allied warships are still bombarding the Turkish defenses on the Dardanelles intermittently is shown by the following official statement issued here today: "On the afternoon of March 19 a torpedo boat and a cruiser shelled the neighborhood of Sed-el-Bahr and Telkeke Burnu. The bombardment was unsuccessful. A British division with two machine guns advanced in the direction of El Salle, north of Sheik Hosman, and was attacked by our troops. The enemy fled."

KILLED MAN FOR CRITICISING WILSON Resenting an attack on President Wilson's Mexican policy, Marcus Argeris shot and killed his friend, Gustave Zolla, while they were preparing for work today. Argeris surrendered to the police.

RUSSIANS CLOSE TO GREAT VICTORY IN TURKEY LONDON, March 21.—A dispatch transmitted by the Rome wireless today says: "The occupation of Trebizond, Mosul, Bagdad, Kalputh and Diarkebr, in Turkey, by Russian forces of Grande Duke Nicholas is imminent." (Occupation of the cities mentioned in the Rome wireless telegram would give the Russians complete control of Armenia and Mesopotamia, cut the Constantinople-Bagdad line of communication and doom the Turkish army that has been fighting the British in the Persian Gulf theatre of war.)

\$450,000 RAISED FOR EPISCOPAL FUND Nearly half the \$1,000,000 pledged by the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania to the \$5,000,000 general pension fund has been raised by the church pension fund committee, according to a report made at the home of Charlton Yarnall. The committee has raised \$450,000 and expects to complete the fund within a few months.

DR. SPIERS ACCEPTS CHAIR AT COLUMBIA Dr. A. G. H. Spiers, associate professor of Romance languages at Haverford College, has accepted the chair of French as head of the College Department of Columbia University. Doctor Spiers prepared at Penn Charter, took a prominent part in activities there. He won his doctor's degree at Harvard in 1909 after having studied abroad. In the fall of the same year he went to Haverford.

KAISER'S CORFU PALACE NOW A HOSPITAL ATHENS, March 21.—The Kaiser's villa on Corfu Island, which was seized by the French when they landed on the island, has been converted into a hospital. There are 120,000 newly equipped Serbian soldiers at Corfu waiting to start to Salonica.

FRENCH HERO AT VERDUN TAUGHT IN THIS CITY Lieutenant Rene Froument, a former teacher of French in Philadelphia, has been decorated by the French War Office for gallantry on the field of battle before Verdun, according to an official communique received by his wife today at 1605 Green street. Froument, who enlisted at the beginning of the war as a corporal, is now in the thick of the fighting around Verdun.

ANTHRACITE SHIPPING RATES UNREASONABLE WASHINGTON, March 21.—Anthracite rates from the Beaver Brook and Coleraine collieries, in the Lehigh district of Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth, N. J., for transshipment by water were held unreasonable today by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the case of Watson, Dodson & Co. against the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The complainants charged they were forced to pay a rate of \$1.55 on prepared sizes of anthracite coal and \$1.40 on pea sizes on shipments aggregating 47,000 gross tons. The Commission held that reasonable rates for the service would have been \$1.45 for prepared and \$1.35 for pea sizes, and ordered reparation to the shippers on basis of these rates.

GREECE ANNEXES EPIRUS, ROME HEARS ROME, March 21.—Advices received here from Athens that a royal decree has been issued proclaiming the annexation of Northern Epirus, Albania, to Greece are causing some concern, the annexation being regarded in official circles as a violation of the decision of the London conference concerning Albania.

MRS. ASQUITH'S LIBEL SUIT SETTLED LONDON, March 21.—The libel suit of Mrs. Herbert Asquith, wife of the Premier, against the Globe was settled today. The suit was brought on account of publication by the Globe of statements that Mrs. Asquith had visited German prisoners of war confined at Donnington Hall and had sent presents to them. When the case was called today announcement was made that the Globe has consented to judgment for £1000 (\$5000) and costs.

TURKISH AVIATORS SHELL KUT-EL-AMARA CONSTANTINOPLE, March 21.—The Turkish War Office issued last night the following statement: "A Turkish aeroplane threw bombs on Kut-el-Amara. On Saturday, in an engagement with the enemy in the neighborhood of the Suez Canal, we captured five Indians."

CENSOR LEAVES ONLY "ADS" IN FRENCH PAPER PARIS, March 21.—All records of the newspaper censorship have been surpassed by No. 1695 of the Toulouse Ecole Laïque, a four-page weekly, of which three and three-quarters pages are entirely blank, only a few lines of advertisements remaining. On the day after it was published the editor received this telegram, signed "Old Subscriber": "Continue your magnificent campaign. You have my enthusiastic support."

REICHSTAG ADVANCES BUDGET TO THIRD READING LONDON, March 21.—The German Reichstag has voted the third reading of the budget, says a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam. The feature of the budget is the special war tax. This tax, as stated by Dr. Karl Helfferich, Secretary of the Imperial Treasury, before the Reichstag last week, is necessary to meet a deficit of 480,000,000 marks (\$120,000,000) caused by the increase of interest on the public debt. The new tax is expected to produce 10,000,000 marks (\$2,500,000) a week.

LONDON JEWEL THIEVES GET \$100,000 HAUL LONDON, March 21.—The biggest robbery in London for a long time was discovered today when it was learned that the Gryde Company on Warwick street had been robbed of more than £20,000 (\$100,000) worth of mounted and unmounted diamonds, pearls, sapphires and rubies. The thieves brought an extraordinary apparatus in two cases weighing respectively 300 and 200 pounds and burst out the locks in the safe in the store.