

GERMANS PUSH LINES FORWARD WEST OF MEUSE

Capture Height West of Haucourt—Take 440 French Prisoners

FRENCH GAIN IN WOEVRE

Continuing their drive against the Paris-Verdun Railway west of Verdun, the Germans have made further progress west of Haucourt, the German War Office announced today.

Four hundred and forty prisoners were taken. The Germans captured Point d'Appel, on the western part of the Avoncourt road.

The text of the official report follows: The German success at the Avoncourt forest (northwest of Verdun) has been made complete by the occupation of the French positions at Point d'Appel on the mountain ridge west of Haucourt.

Four hundred and forty prisoners were taken. Otherwise the general situation on the west front is unchanged.

PARIS, March 23.—A furious all-night bombardment was carried on by the Germans east of the Meuse River, the French War Office announced today.

West of the river the artillery duel slackened in violence. The general situation is unchanged. The text of the official communiqué follows:

West of the Meuse the bombardment slackened during the night. The enemy did not renew his attacks against Point Mamouzeau and Haucourt, at which we held the heights. East of the Meuse the bombardment has continued with violence at many points on the front.

In the Woevre region no important event has been reported with the exception of an intermittent cannonade.

West of Point-Moutson a surprise attack, directed against the enemy's trench in the region of Fey-on-Haye, enabled us to take some prisoners.

The night was quiet on the rest of the front.

Attempts of the Germans to outflank the French northwest of Verdun to the west of the Meuse have been checked, it was stated today by French military critics.

Marcel Hutin, a well-known authority on military matters, says: "This attempt to envelop the left wing of the French army at Verdun is not being conducted with sufficient troops to cause us any alarm."

Paris is expecting an extension of the battle front and it would cause no surprise to military men to see a continuous engagement from Vaucoullin in the Argonne to Epargnes in the Woevre district.

At the same time, the Germans would probably attack elsewhere in order to divert the French from sending large numbers of reinforcements to the Verdun front.

It is declared that the withdrawal of the French from Haucourt, which was captured by the Germans yesterday, strengthens instead of weakens the French lines northwest of Verdun, because a salient had been formed there which was in danger of being cut off.

The withdrawal in no way lightens the task of the Crown Prince, but only increases the difficulties.

The Echo de Paris states that the capture of Haucourt Knoll cost the Germans less than it would have cost to divert the French from sending large numbers of reinforcements to the Verdun front.

THE WEATHER

Official Forecast

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey—Fair tonight; Friday fair and warmer; moderate northwest winds becoming variable.

The storm that was central in the middle Ohio Valley yesterday morning has now moved northward at a phenomenal rate and is passing off the coast at Nova Scotia this morning. It caused high winds and light precipitation throughout the northeastern portion of the country, and has been followed by a cold area that overpours all districts from the Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic coast.

A large and energetic disturbance is central near Salt Lake City this morning and covers the Western half of the country.

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin

Observations taken at 8 a. m. eastern time.

Table with columns: Station, Time, Wind, Temp., etc. listing weather data for various cities.

The War Today

The Germans are again bombarding the French positions north of Verdun, east of the Meuse River. West of the river since their capture of Haucourt Hill, the Germans have not attempted to make any attacks.

IL GOVERNO ITALIANO DICHIARA SOLIDARIETA' PIENA CON GLI ALLEATI

Atacchi Austriaci Su Tutta la Fronte da Val Giudicaria alla Conca di Plezzo Respinti dagli Italiani

L'OFFENSIVA DEI RUSSI

Ieri nella Camera dei Deputati il sottosegretario di Stato per gli Affari Esteri, rispondendo ad una interrogazione circa gli impegni assunti dall'Italia verso gli Alleati, dichiarava che l'Italia aveva aderito pienamente al Patto di Londra impegnandosi a non concludere separatamente la pace, ed aveva inoltre aderito altrettanto pienamente a tutti quegli altri accordi conclusi anteriormente tra le Potenze della Triplice Intesa, non esclusa la promessa di non lasciare le armi se prima non fosse restituita la piena e completa indipendenza al Belgio. Queste dichiarazioni ufficiali furono accolte da applausi da tutta la Camera, perché provano che l'Italia non fa soltanto la sua guerra, cioè che sarebbe ridicolo pensare, ma fa la grande guerra di tutta l'Europa contro chi vorrebbe ridurla al vassallaggio con la forza delle armi.

Ieri sera il Ministero della guerra pubblicava il seguente rapporto del comandante interinale delle forze italiane circa la situazione alla fronte italo-austriaca: "I rapporti di fanteria nemica testimoniano parecchi attacchi di sorpresa contro le linee italiane allo sbocco della vallata di Rives, nella Valle di Doone, in Valle di Gressa, (nelle vicinanze di Mori), nella valle del Rio Cameras, a nord-est di Piazza (in Val Terragnolo) e sulle alture che circondano la conca di Plezzo. Gli attacchi del nemico furono respinti da parte nostra.

"Sulle alture di Santa Maria, nella zona di Tolmino, nella stessa notte il nemico tentò di operare un attacco che però fu mandato a vuoto dal pronto ed efficace intervento della nostra artiglieria. Pur tardi altri tentativi di avanzare per scarsi, che furono pure facilmente respinti dalle nostre truppe.

"I duelli di artiglieria continuarono nella giornata di ieri su tutta la fronte, sebbene fossero in certo modo ostacolati dal cattivo tempo.

Intanto, mentre in Francia, nel settore di Verdun, i tedeschi si ostinano ancora ad attaccare la formidabile posizione francese, attaccando piccoli vantaggi locali a prezzo di sacrifici enormi, le forze russe attaccano violentemente le linee tedesche ed austriache sulla fronte orientale.

L'attacco russo si è sviluppato in una vera e propria offensiva contro le linee tedesche della zona di Dvinsk, che sono state sfondate. È noto che il maresciallo von Hindenburg per sei mesi contro Dvinsk senza mai riuscire a prenderla ai russi che ora sono sull'offensiva e battono i tedeschi nonostante i furiosi contrattacchi di questi ultimi.

Ma un'altra notizia di grande importanza è che gli austriaci hanno evacuato la città di Czernowitz, capitale della Bucovina. I russi avevano in questi giorni sfondato le linee austriache più violente e la situazione delle forze che occupavano Czernowitz era divenuta pericolosa. Ora giunge notizia a Roma che la città è stata occupata dagli austriaci, mentre i turchi hanno evacuato nell'Asia Minore la città di Erzican. A Berlino si parla degli attacchi russi come della "grande offensiva russa" e da sempre più estesa sfondo in linea quadrata sul fronte di Russia occidentale della Russia verso gli alleati e della situazione generale nella Penisola Balcanica.

Dalle ultime notizie si rileva che i russi attaccano più violentemente le linee tedesche e di Riga e quelle austriache sul Danubio, e si sa che alcune unità tedesche che erano state trasferite dalla Polonia alla Francia sono state rinviate in fretta alla fronte austriaca. I russi hanno ora a loro disposizione tre milioni di uomini bene armati ed appoggiati da circa 10.000 cannoni di ogni calibro, alcuni dei quali furono distrutti dai sommergibili del governo giapponese nell'inverno. I critici militari russi dicono che per la fine del prossimo mese di luglio i russi saranno di nuovo sui Carpazi e davanti a Varsavia. Le forze russe che attaccano le linee tenute da von Hindenburg sono sotto gli ordini del generale Kupatkin.

LA RUMANIA IN GUERRA NEL PROSSIMO APRILE?

Esercito e Finanze Pronti, e l'Opinione Pubblica Entusiastica per l'Intervento

Telegrammi da Roma dicono che diviene ogni giorno più evidente che la Rumania alleata e che nel prossimo aprile il re Ferdinando dichiarerà la guerra. La Rumania ha continuato a prepararsi per la guerra e la situazione finanziaria del paese è sicura, una grande quantità di viveri è stata accumulata. L'esercito è quasi tutto mobilitato e le riserve di munizioni sono abbondanti. I dispacci che giungono da Bucarest dicono che l'opinione pubblica rumena è piena di entusiasmo per la guerra, e che la Rumania invece di attaccare la Bulgaria, dirigerà le sue truppe contro l'Austria-Ungheria. Se sarà così è probabile che i bulgari tenteranno di invadere la Rumania attraversando il Danubio. La Bulgaria è concepita a grandi forze verso il suo confine settentrionale.

'DON'T END U-BOAT WAR, THE PEOPLE BACK VON TIRPITZ'

Four German Newspapers Print Manifesto Urging Ruthless Policy MANY PETITIONS SIGNED

BERLIN, March 23.—An "overwhelming majority" of the German people are on the side of Admiral von Tirpitz in favoring a ruthless prosecution of the submarine war, according to a manifesto which four leading newspapers—the National Liberal Tageszeitung, the National Liberal Tagesische Rundschau, the Kreuzzeitung and the Post—publish on their front pages, calling for debate on the resolutions inquiring into the conduct of the war.

Stimulated by this publication it has become known that petitions appealing to the Government to give the widest latitude to the submarine campaign and to press it energetically are being circulated everywhere among the people.

On the other hand, the Social Democratic members of the Reichstag have shown that they will stand with the Radicals and the Centrists in supporting the Chancellor. These parties together constitute a majority of the Reichstag and indicated that they will prevent discussion of the resolutions in open session. The Chancellor will address the Reichstag within a week, but it is not considered probable that he will allude to the submarine question.

THE MANIFESTO

The manifesto published in the newspapers follows: "In view of the treatment which the resolutions now before the Reichstag regarding war against commerce have exacted from our Government, we feel ourselves compelled in harmony with a great number of leading German newspapers to make the following declaration: "The political events of the last few days have evoked in the German people a sense of indignation of the highest order. Grand Admiral von Tirpitz is looked on by our nation not only as a great seaman energy and creative force brought to glorious realization in the words of our Emperor that a strong fleet was an urgent necessity for us, but at the same time as the German statesman who first and most clearly recognized England's purpose to destroy her peaceful German rival and who was determined to meet this purpose with all force and by ruthless employment of all means at our disposal.

POPULAR MAJORITY CLAIMED

"The overwhelming majority of our people feel themselves therein at one with the creator and organizer of our navy. Although the people repose unshakable trust in the supreme commanders' apprehensions are widespread that the retirement of the grand admiral is connected with his attitude on this question; and statements of newspapers whose connection with Government circles is known have confirmed this interpretation.

"It is our conviction that it is the urgent demand of the hour that ground for these apprehensions be fully removed. The resolutions before the Reichstag offer a suitable occasion for this. Therefore we welcome these resolutions and regard as constitutionally ungrounded, the criticism prematurely meted out in respect to them by officially inspired organs. We voice the patriot's feelings and desire of wide circles of the German people when we give expression to the hope that the leaders of the Empire will give these resolutions the consideration which will do justice to their patriotic quietude and promote the fulfillment of their patriotic aims.

"We believe that in these days of earnest endeavor it is our duty to the nation and fatherland, imperiously demanded of us by the national conscience, to speak of these things openly."

"These papers are all Conservative or military organs, the Liberal Tageblatt protests indignantly against this "anti-governmental campaign" to obtain signatures to petitions and otherwise to create a tremendous demonstration in favor of intensified submarine warfare. The Tageblatt asserts writers in restaurants and cafes go from table to table in an effort to obtain signatures.

POLICE TO GUARD SQUARES

Cops Will Be Detailed to Safeguard City Property, Women and Children

Beginning Saturday, April 1, the police lieutenants will detail policemen for duty in each public square where such details have been made heretofore during the summer months. The policemen so detailed will do reserve duty the same as others. They will be required to pay particular attention to the safety of women and children, and that objectionable characters are kept away and prevent the destruction of flowers, plants, trees and other city property in the squares.

"Do Not Expect Too Much of Airships," Says Zeppelin

ROTTERDAM, March 23.—Count Zeppelin, speaking in the Prussian House of Deputies, warned the German people not to expect too much of his airships.

"The Zeppelins are not as near perfect as I might wish," said the aged inventor. "They should have greater carrying power and should be able to reach still higher altitudes. We are now testing new types of motors by which we hope to make a nearer approach to perfection. In the meantime, a certain percentage of losses must be successfully executed."

The Deputies gave Count Zeppelin a great ovation.

SLAVS EXTEND DENT IN 200-MILE FRONT

Continued from Page One zany, where our aviators had observed enemy concentrations.

SILENCE GERMAN BATTERIES

After silencing the fire of the enemy's batteries in the Mischkole region (south of Lake Dnievitsky, about 25 miles south of Dvinsk), our troops captured a line of trenches in the Mentiary-Tiret-Sekly sector. Enemy attempts to take the offensive south of Tveretzh (5 miles south of Vidva) were repulsed by our fire.

In the region of Vileta and Mojelkha north of the town of Postavy (south of Tveretzh), desperate infantry fighting is proceeding. The enemy here launched violent counter-attacks against our troops, who had at various points dislodged the enemy from his trenches and had captured some of his machine guns.

In the Tchority-Lotwa section, north of Lake Mladzil (11 miles south of Postavy and four miles north of Lake Naroz), the enemy attacked against the northern German flank in the neighborhood of Friedrichstadt. The effect of these two attacks, if they had succeeded, would have been to squeeze the Germans from their extended position before Dvinsk and convert the present arc into a straight line from Friedrichstadt to Svietyany.

VIENNA, March 23.—Russian artillery is bombarding the Austro-Hungarian positions along the entire northern front, it is announced by the Austrian War Office. It is said that Russian infantry attacks were repulsed. Following is the text of the official report:

"Russian artillery is active on the whole of the northern front. On the Strypa River and in the sector of Kormin infantry detachments which attacked our positions were thrown back. At one place in Galicja, one Russian battalion lost three officers and 150 soldiers in dead and 100 in prisoners. Our casualties were few."

RUSSIAN ATTACKS GAIN IN VIOLENCE, BERLIN ADMITS

"Continue to Advance and Show Utmost Aggressiveness"

BERLIN, March 23.—The Russians continue to advance in the eastern theatre. In the region of Jakobstadt (north of Dvinsk) the Russians have renewed their attacks with greater violence than ever and also in front of Dviena (Dvinsk) on the frontier between Poland and Wisniew. The official statement says:

"The Russians yesterday showed the utmost aggressiveness and there was great activity throughout the evening and night. They advanced with strong forces against the German positions at the Jakobstadt bridgehead and on both sides of the Mitaub-Jakobstadt Railway.

Four attacks were launched against the German positions north of Widva. On the front northwest of Postavy the number of prisoners taken by us has reached 14 officers and 889 men.

In the sector of Postavy it is believed that the Russians do not intend to make any more general attacks because of the overwhelming losses they have suffered.

In the sector of Narocz and Wisniew the enemy advanced several times with renewed force.

The Russians made great sacrifices of human life and spent much ammunition in these attacks and in other attacks of local character elsewhere. The German defense remained unshaken and the Russians were unable to gain any advantage at any point.

"Dorm" Rentals at U. of P. Raised

William O. Miller, bursar of the University of Pennsylvania has announced that the rents in all the dormitories are to be raised \$10 per individual for a year. Notices to this effect have been posted on various bulletin boards on the University campus. The bulletin do not say when the advance in rental will take place. There are 1000 students in the "dorms," and the raise in rents will add, therefore, \$10,000 annually to University funds.

PAYMENT OF MILITIA CONTESTED IN HOUSE

Way Is Cleared for Final Vote on the Hay Army Bill

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The way was cleared for the final vote in the House today on the Hay army reorganization bill, first of the Administration preparedness measures. Confident that the Hay bill would be sent to the Senate at once, Administration leaders made plans for beginning consideration of it in the upper chamber next Monday.

A proposal to create a Federal volunteer force of 261,000 men, in effect the same as the continental army, was overwhelmingly voted down by the House.

Today's contest in the House centered about two features of the bill. One was the provision for the payment of officers and enlisted men of the National Guard by the Federal Government. For this Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, proposed as a substitute the volunteer army plan drawn by Senator Chamberlain and endorsed by the General Staff of the army.

Under the Gardner provision the War Department would be given full authority to raise a force of volunteers which, with the regular army, would form the first line of the nation's land defense. Debate on the militia pay section and on the Gardner volunteer army plan was limited when the House met.

The other contested point in the bill was the proposal for the Government to co-operate with private interests in the establishment of a hydro-electric plant which would make use of the nitrogen in race arum. Advocates and opponents of government ownership found in this provision material for a sharp fight.

Philadelphia's Order Cottages Built

OCEAN CITY, March 23.—Contracts have been awarded this week for several fine cottages and bungalows. William Barth, of Ocean City, Md., has been awarded a cottage costing \$5500; H. Walter Berrot, of Germantown, a two-flat house; Massey & Edwards, a bungalow costing \$2200; Joseph M. Rowland, of Philadelphia, a cottage costing \$5500, and Mrs. Katherine D. Whiteley, a cottage costing \$5500.

Police Court Chronicles

When John Rogera awakens every morning the clock tells him that he's half an hour late. It doesn't matter how early he goes to bed. The hands never race around and get to 6 o'clock as when Rogera has barely gone to sleep. At least it seems that way. This morning it was the same as usual. Rogera awoke to find that he was already late for work.

He swallowed a cup of coffee on his way to the door and ate a fried egg at the same time. His dinner, already packed in a big can, he thrust under his arm by the boarding mistress. He dashed out of his home on St. Bernard street and tried to board a Lancaster avenue car.

He missed it by many feet, and then went in a nearby saloon to wait for another car. He noticed that the hands on the clock in the saloon continued to go around even while he waited. This made Rogera mad and he took a drink. Then another—and then some. As he left the saloon a car was approaching. Rogera managed to board it, but he collided with several passengers and seemed to want trouble. The conductor obliged him by putting him off.

Another car was directly behind. The Italian walked toward the front door, but the motorist shut the door in his face. To express his contempt Rogera flung his dinner kettle through the window, and as a result two fried eggs, a few cold potatoes and some frankfurters were sprinkled among the passengers.

On realizing that he had thrown his dinner away the Italian ran after the car and demanded his dinner back. The motorist opened the door and let him on. Then he stopped the car before the police station at 39th street and Lancaster avenue. Policeman Brady was summoned. He took Rogera before Magistrate Stevenson. Rogera fussed and fumed, but he lost his voice when the Judge said 30 days.

PEACE RUMORS BUZZ AS PRESIDENT DENIES

Washington Continues to Discuss Possibility of U. S. Entering European Parley

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Although President Wilson has denied published assertions that Germany had intimated that it desired the United States to act as a mediator in the conflict in Europe, rumors of the possibility of peace negotiations persist in Washington.

White House denials do not dispose of the fact that Ambassador Gerard was called into conference by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg last Friday, when, it is said, peace was discussed.

The German peace terms, it is believed, are:

First. Germany to withdraw to her own frontiers in Europe and return to Belgium the war taxes collected there.

Second. The restoration of the Polish kingdom as a buffer State between Russia and Germany.

Third. Russia to abandon all claims to influence in the Balkans, in return for territorial concessions in Persia.

Fourth. Germany's colonies to be returned, with the addition of territory in Southwest Africa.

The Allies, it is said, are not inclined to haggle over details. They seek only one object, and will be ready to discuss peace the moment that is attained.

RUMANIA MAY JOIN ENTENTE IN APRIL

Great Stores Collected and Army Mobilized—Nation Enthusiastic for War

ROME, March 23.—It is becoming more and more apparent that Rumania will cast her lot with the Allies, and predictions are freely made that King Ferdinand will openly espouse the cause of the Entente Powers in April.

For some time Rumania has been making preparations for war. The financial condition of the Government is secure, great stores of grain have been collected, the army is mobilized and there is a big accumulation of arms and ammunition.

Press dispatches from Bucharest say that public opinion is enthusiastic for war. These dispatches indicate that Rumania, instead of attacking Bulgaria, will strike against Austro-Hungary. If that comes to pass the Bulgarians probably will attempt to invade Rumanian territory, as a big Bulgarian force, superior to the Rumanian frontier, has been gathered.

The Rumanian offensive and the failure of the Germans to take Verdun have had strong influence upon the Rumanian Government.

Advertisement for The Van Sciver Store, featuring furniture, beds, and awnings. Includes text: 'No Order too Small—None too Large for The Van Sciver Store' and 'These Solid Mahogany Colonial Post Beds are unusual values.'

Large advertisement for the Anniversary Number of the Public Ledger on Saturday. Includes text: 'Anniversary Number On Saturday' and 'THE Public Ledger will be eighty years young on Saturday, the 25th.'

Advertisement for HUGHES & MULLER TAILORS, featuring the text: 'We could easily take care of the busiest rush with extra men—but tailors of the quality we demand are limited in number—'