



RAVINES FILLED WITH DEAD ALONG 20-MILE FRONT

40,000 Germans Lost in Three Days' Fighting, French Say

SHELLS DIG GRAVES

Man's Inhumanity to Man as Seen in Verdun Fight

Every man in a French force penetrating Fort Douaumont was wiped out in a German charge. Men are fighting in dark, underground tunnels, using hand searchlights, knives and bombs.

By CHARLES F. BERTELLI

Between Avocourt wood and Fort Douaumont, northwest and northeast of Verdun, across a front 20 miles wide, there are a dozen ravines so choked with dead that ghastly barriers are formed by corpses.

Never before has there been fighting of such ferocity as has been seen during the last week upon the shell-torn hill slopes, where half a million German and French soldiers were straining at each other's throats like maniacs.

During the direct attacks and counter-attacks of the past three days and nights, it is estimated that the Germans lost a full corps, 40,000 men, in dead and wounded. Particularly severe were the German losses around Fort Douaumont, which is again in German hands.

Between the lines soldiers helpless from wounds have died amidst the fallen, the Red Cross workers being unable to reach them for their mighty explosions. But the Germans are willing to pay any price to take Verdun as become fully apparent.

With the French it is different. Dead Man's Hill was given up to save the troops from being smothered beneath the rain of projectiles which the German gunners hurled against the eminence day and night.

General Nivelle, rather than incur the expense of a prolonged defense of the hill would have entailed, gave up the position, but even yet the Germans have been unable to organize a position on the west because of the sustained fire of the French artillery.

Fists Fly on Capitol Lawn

BATON ROUGE, La., May 25.—Oswald McNeese, Adjutant General of Louisiana, and A. D. Stewart, New York, a United States man and aspirant to the Adjutant General's office, settled a personal quarrel with their fists yesterday afternoon.

METHODISTS MAINTAIN BAN ON AMUSEMENTS

Cards, Dance and Theatre Again Forbidden by Conference by 74 Majority

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., May 25.—The Methodist General Conference voted, 64 to 26, this afternoon to retain the rule that Methodists must not play cards, dance or attend theatres.

THE WEATHER

See-saw, Margery Daw. That is all it is, being anything you please. The Germans have taken that traitor Fort Douaumont again, the Russians are chasing the Turks, the Austrians are battering the Italians, the pendulum of millions of clocks are swinging monotonously, the ebbs and flows as usual, the Athletics lost once more, the Brumbaugh-Pearse war is shifting its place in the "impossible" in Europe, the sun came up as usual—and it's a fair day.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair tonight and Friday; warmer tonight; gentle winds, mostly southwest.

LOST AND FOUND

TEUTONS REGAIN DOUAUMONT AND HAUDROMONT POSITIONS; FRENCH QUIT DEAD MAN'S HILL

German Troops Recapture Ground in Fiercest Counter-Charge of Verdun Battle—30,000 Die in and About Ruins of Fort

Le Mort Homme Now "No Man's Land"—Hill 304 Held Jointly—Kaiser's Hosts Prepare Drive on Chattancourt—French Make Advance Near Cumieres Village

Recapture of Fort Douaumont by the Germans and the evacuation of the Dead Man's Hill position by the French are the two outstanding features in today's dispatches from the Verdun front, where the greatest battle in the history of the world is being fought.

At least 500,000 men are at each other's throats with a ferocity that exceeds that of any battle yet recorded. Dozens of ravines along a front 20 miles wide are filled with dead and it is estimated that 30,000 men died fighting in the dark, underground passages and about the ruins of Fort Douaumont.

The Germans assert that the French have lost nearly a whole army corps in the attempt to hold Dead Man's Hill, which although abandoned by the French, is in reality "No Man's Land," because of the fierce artillery fire sweeping over it from the guns of both armies.

While the Paris War Office asserts that French troops have recaptured trenches on the outskirts of Cumieres, which would expose the Germans to a flank attack should they endeavor to debouch for a further advance from that point, the Berlin statement asserts that west of the Meuse the French are steadily being driven back and that the Germans are preparing for a terrific drive upon Chattancourt and Fort Bourrus.

Hill 304, according to Berlin, is being held jointly by both sides. According to Paris, the fighting abated last night as a result of sheer exhaustion of both armies, but from German reports it seems that the Kaiser's high command is determined to take Verdun at all costs.

The recklessness of the Germans in their attacks is appalling.

FRENCH CLAIM ADVANCE NEAR CUMIERES VILLAGE

PARIS, May 25.—French troops advanced last night along the west bank of the Meuse, just east of Cumieres village, in grenade fighting, the War Office announced this afternoon.

The Germans, by a strong attack, captured a French trench north of Haudromont quarries on the east bank. Though violent artillery duels continued throughout the night, there were no important infantry struggles either around Fort Douaumont or on the Dead Man's Hill, front west of the river.

The French state was made in a small wood between the river and the village of Cumieres. Though the advance was slight, the position won by the French exposed the Germans to a flanking attack if they attempt to push southward from Cumieres.

General Nivelle made no attempt to recapture of Fort Douaumont ruins from the Germans during the night. Apparently, through sheer exhaustion, both sides have almost completely halted infantry operations around the Verdun front.

Continued on Page Four, Column Four

MIGHTY TRENTO BATTLE NEARING CRITICAL PHASE

Rome Announces Officially Temporary Slackening of Austrian Offensive

SITUATION NOT CLEAR

After 48-Hour Bombardment Italian Alpines Still Defend Important Mountain Pass

The battle between the Italians and Austro-Hungarians on the Trentino front is drawing into its critical phase, says a dispatch from Milan. It will be several days before the situation at Lake Garda and the Val Sugana becomes absolutely clear.

In the meantime the battle rages furiously with the Italians copying the tactics of the French at Verdun.

The Italian Alpines defended Costanzerio for three days, repulsing attack after attack. Each time the Austrians withdrew with decimated ranks. The defense was prolonged until a new line of defense was prepared. The battle for the possession of Monte Maggio was an epic.

The intensity of the Austrian offensive has temporarily diminished. The Italians have been obliged to abandon a few advanced trenches for strategic reasons.

Continued on Page Four, Column Three

GERMAN "NUT CRACKER" CLOSING ON VERDUN

BERLIN, May 25.—The giant German "nut cracker" is closing in upon Verdun in the bloodiest fighting in all history.

The right jaw has advanced on a front of three miles in the last 72 hours of the mad struggle southwest of the fortress. The French have evacuated the entire Dead Man's Hill position northwest of Verdun, after sacrificing more than a whole army corps in vain efforts to hold it.

The Germans are again in possession of Fort Douaumont. In addition the Germans have captured trenches south and southwest of Fort Douaumont, recaptured the Haudromont quarries and taken 850 prisoners and 14 machine guns.

Hill 304, cornerstone of the French out-defense west of the Meuse, is now held jointly by Germans and French. Further slight advances for the Germans in the ravines on either side will force its surrender to the French. It is estimated here that 30,000 men died fighting in dark underground caverns and about the ruins of the fortress.

Continued on Page Four, Column Three

PRETTY GIRL TRAPPED IN LONELY SHORE SPOT HELD UP AND ATTACKED

Florence Seltz, of Philadelphia, Taking Jitney Ride, Left Stranded by Driver as Assailant Appears

Warns Other Girls

24 HEAVY GUN BATTERIES

WEATHER BUREAU SAVES \$60,000,000 TO SHIPPERS

Bliss Tells Jovians Reports Reduce Annual Loss

GERMANS GAIN TRENCH SOUTHEAST OF RIGA

FRENCH PLANNING RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWNS

QUICK NEWS

SENATE COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARINGS ON SHIP BILL

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The Senate Commerce Committee today appointed a subcommittee consisting of Senators Simmons of North Carolina, Fletcher of Florida, Bankhead of Alabama, Jones of Washington and Lippitt of Rhode Island, to hold hearings on the \$50,000,000 ship purchase bill passed by the House.

YEGGMEN GET \$7000 IN JEWELS FROM CHICAGO SAFE

CHICAGO, May 25.—Yeggmen blew the safe of the Sandack Jewelry Company, in South Halsted street, today and took diamonds and other jewels valued at \$7000.

WOODBINE RACING RESULTS

First race, selling, 3-year-olds and up, 6 furlongs—Ben Col, 113, Dishman, \$61.20, \$18.00 and \$6.00, won; Garnet, 100, Parrington, \$16.00 and \$6, second; Lady London, 111, Mott, \$2.70, third. Time, 1:14. Videt, Lady Mexican, Volant, Pamphina, Lost Fortune, Cincinnati, Gordon and Audrey Austin also ran.

BELMONT RACING RESULTS

First race selling, 3-year-olds and up, \$500 added, 6 furlongs—Tea Caddy, 106, Haynes, 7 to 5, 2 to 5 and out, won; True As Steel, 118, Keogh, 12 to 5, 7 to 10 and 1 to 4, second; Yankee Notions, 109, Warcher, 4 to 1, 7 to 5 and 1 to 2, third. Time, 1:15.

HOUSE PASSES OREGON-CALIFORNIA LAND BILL

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The House today passed the Oregon-California land grant bill by a vote of 186 to 6. The measure reverts in the Government title to all of the unsold part of the original grant of land to the Oregon and California Railroad, of which the Southern Pacific is successor.

STUDENTS OF FIVE SCHOOLS OFF TO SEE WILSON

Two hundred and fifty high school students left Broad Street Station this morning for Washington. The schools represented were Central High, Palmyra High, Bordentown High, Lower Merion High and the John Wanamaker Collegiate Institute.

GERMANS MINING ENTRANCE TO THE BALTIC

COPENHAGEN, May 25.—Mariners report that the Germans are laying a mine field between the Danish Island of Bornholm and the Swedish coast with the evident purpose of closing the entrances to the Baltic.

McLAUGHLIN LEADS SOBEL BY 3468 VOTES

Returns from all but 592 of the 6890 election districts in the State show that Joseph McLaughlin, of Philadelphia, leads leader Sobel, of Erie, by 3468 votes for the fourth nomination for Congressman at Large on the Republican ticket.

HARDEN PROPOSES THAT WORLD LIMIT ARMAMENT

BERLIN, May 25.—Maximilian Harden, writing in Die Zukunft, proposes that for the benefit of American opinion and the promotion of peace talk, Germany shall profess a desire for the limitation of armaments.

DREYFUS' SON HONORED FOR BRAVERY AT VERDUN

PARIS, May 25.—Pierre Dreyfus son of Commandant Alfred Dreyfus of the famous "Dreyfus Affair," who has been serving on the Verdun front as second lieutenant in the artillery, has just been cited in the orders of the day for having "particularly distinguished himself during the violent engagements of February 26, 27 and 28" in the Battle of Verdun.

GERMANY TO FREE AMERICAN WOMAN "SPY"

BERLIN, May 25.—The American Ambassador, James W. Gerard, has been informed that an American woman, Miss Mary Silliman, a teacher in the American school for girls at Constantinople, who was arrested on suspicion of espionage at Warnemunde, Germany, a month ago, while on her way to the United States, will be released at an early date.

AMBASSADOR SHARP RECOVERING FROM PNEUMONIA

PARIS, May 25.—American Ambassador Sharp is convalescing after an attack of pneumonia. He is still confined to his room, but his physicians hope he will be able to actively resume his duties in a fortnight.

TWO U. OF P. STUDENTS SCARLET FEVER PATIENTS

Two pupils of the University of Pennsylvania, living at the Sigma Nu Fraternity house, 3312 Walnut street, have been taken to the Municipal Hospital suffering from scarlet fever. They are Charles V. Austin, of Catskill, N. Y., and Julius Van Raalio, of St. Louis. Both are students in the Wharton School.

APPOINTED PROTHONOTARY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Harvey S. Frederick has been appointed prothonotary of Montgomery County by Governor Brumbaugh to succeed Sylvester B. Drake, who recently resigned. Mr. Frederick is a member of the Republican County Committee, is 40 years old and is a shoe merchant at Souderton, Pa.

HARVARD CLASS DEDICATES ALBUM TO PHILADELPHIAN

The 1915 class of Harvard University has dedicated its class album to Mrs. Eleanor Elkins Widener Rice, who donated a library to the university in memory of her son, Harry Elkins Widener, who lost his life on the Titanic.

GERMANS GAIN TRENCH SOUTHEAST OF RIGA

FRENCH PLANNING RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWNS

LLOYD-GEORGE NOW NAMED TO PACIFY IRELAND

Former Exchequer Chief and Present Munitions Minister Accepts Commission

ARMS PROBLEM SETTLED

WILL TACKLE IRISH PROBLEM

The British Cabinet has unanimously voted to place the settlement of the Irish difficulties in Lloyd George's hands.

LONDON, May 25.—David Lloyd-George, Minister of Munitions, has been given full charge of the Irish situation and power to pacify the island, Premier Asquith announced in Commons this afternoon.

The Premier announced that a provisional government would be established for Ireland.

"The Government is more than anxious to do everything possible to facilitate an agreement between the factions in Ireland," Mr. Asquith declared.

Lloyd-George was the unanimous choice of the Cabinet, the Prime Minister announced. He will devote his time and powers in an effort to effect a settlement between the conflicting elements in Ireland.

The Prime Minister appealed to all sections of the House to refrain from discussing the Irish question while Lloyd-George conducts negotiations. John Redmond, replying for the Irish party, said if the plan failed the fault would not lie with his party.

Lloyd-George's selection was a surprise to Commons. In the lobbies of the House of Commons it was pointed out that the

Continued on Page Six, Column One

LLOYDS QUOTE ODDS STRONGLY AGAINST PEACE

Betting on End of War Responds to Grey's Declaration Truce Talk Is Idle

3 TO 1 FROM EVEN MONEY

LONDON, May 25.—Responding instantly to Sir Edward Grey's declaration that peace talk is idle until Germany changes her attitude, Lloyd's today made a radical shift in rates of insurance against the war ending before December 31.

A few days ago Lloyd's offered even money that the war would not end this year. Today the insurance brokers were willing to wager 3 to 1 that the war would not end in 1916.

Other odds quoted by Lloyd's today were: Seven to three that the war would not end before April 1, 1917.

Four to one that the war will end before 1919.

Two to one that Germany and United States will not be at war this month.

The odds quoted on the possibilities of a German-American clash reflect the strong feeling in English circles that a German submarine commander, by attacking a passenger liner without warning and causing loss of lives, will upset the settlement reached by President Wilson and embroil the two nations in war.

The newspapers today generally applauded Sir Edward Grey's answer in Commons yesterday to the German Chancellor's latest peace talk. The consensus of opinion among Londoners is that the Foreign Secretary has killed all hope in Germany of a peace on Germany's terms and at the same time has served notice on Beckmann-Holweg that he must make radical changes in the peace program if he hopes for an early ending of the war.

"There is not a phrase or word in Sir Edward Grey's speech which encourages the hope of an early peace," said the Daily Chronicle today. "The statement at the end of the speech is that the Allies are not beaten and are not going to be beaten."

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PARIS, May 25.—President Poincare has inaugurated an exposition in the Tuilleries Gardens, at which methods of reconstructing the devastated villages of France are being demonstrated. The large number of exhibitors include many Americans. Types of reconstructed houses, with modern sanitary equipment, and proposals for laying out cities and towns are on exhibition.