

# HUNDREDS OF NONCOMBATANTS DIE, VICTIMS OF HINDENBURG RETREAT

## Old Men, Women and Children Succumb to Exposure, Starvation and Mistreatment in Territory Abandoned by Germans—Teuton Soldiers Themselves Shrink From Vile Duty

By HENRY WOOD

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE PATHWAY OF THE GERMAN RETREAT, March 26.

More than 300 women, children and aged persons are known to have succumbed to the hardships of the exposure, the brutality and the starvation which the Germans imposed upon the French civil population immediately preceding and during the retreat.

In Chauny, where today approximately 150 non-combatants—men, women and children—are still crowded in the village, the refugees now under French care.

Along the roads leading from Ham, Chauny, Tergote and La Fere to Noyon, where on Tuesday I personally met only refugees fleeing from the German bombardment, one saw today a number of convoys taking munitions and supplies to front positions, where fighting is going on, these automobiles were returning with refugees too sick or too exhausted to proceed any farther.

The scenes of hardship, exposure and starvation—but as they declared—dying happily, leaving their villages were redeemed and surviving loved ones freed from German captivity.

At the first German invasion in the French soldiers' greater anger among the peasants and small farmers, than the bewailing of their orchards by the Germans. Orchards, they know, require from twenty to thirty days to grow. It will take that long for this work of destruction to be repaired.

### GERMANS SEND FRENCH WORKERS INTO CAPTIVITY

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES AHEAD, March 26.

There were at a little town in the path of the German retreat today, a number of French workers who had been taken into captivity.

I have a child a ham sandwich. Without stopping to eat it—and she was hungry, too—she ran into her house, shouting out, "Here's meat!"

A moment later a woman emerged, carrying a slice of the buttered bread of the sandwich, her face lighted up.

"Look! Look!" she cried, "they've still got butter in France!"

Nothing was more poignant a reminder of the sufferings of the people left behind than this small incident today.

That Germany intends bleeding northern France to complete ruin cannot now be doubted.

Not only was every person capable of working driven back, while the children, the aged and the infirm, were left behind to the mercy of the elements, but property—even of the poorest civilian—was confiscated without promise of pay.

One wrinkled-faced old woman told me today she was forced to leave her home and take only the clothes she was then wearing. The Germans took all her remaining belongings—especially prized, the woolens. Other peasants said the same thing.

As the families were driven from their homes, those capable of working were taken to one direction, into Germany. The others, the nonworkers, were thrust back in the opposite direction, toward the Allies. It would be a miracle if these are ever united again.

It is quite plain now that the old folks and children were huddled in Neale, Noyon and elsewhere so the villages could be thoroughly sacked.

I visited a score of such towns today—all systematically wiped out by torch and dynamite.

Obviously a general order was issued by the German commanders not to spare fruit trees, for throughout the whole zone those trees were finally touched off. German miners worked at night only, in order to avoid observation of Allied aviators.

The vandalism of the troops reached such disgusting degrees that an occasional German soldier, even an occasional officer, confessed, I am told, in guarded pleas to the French inhabitants that they were sickened by them, but obliged to carry out Von Hindenburg's orders.

### ALLIED TROOPS POCKET LA FERRE AND ST. QUENTIN

Continued from Page One

The provisional Russian Government is rushing heavy re-enforcements of men and guns to the Dvina front, in anticipation of the drive on Petrograd, said to be planned by Hindenburg.

### ALLIES AIM TO SPLIT NEW GERMAN LINES

LONDON, March 26.

St. Quentin and La Fere, two of the most powerful strongholds of the new "Von Hindenburg line" in France, are being "pocketed" by the French. With these two fortresses in the hands of the Allies, the Germans would be compelled to retire from the great railway centers of Cambrai and Laon—both towns of high strategic importance.

Further progress is reported for the Allies in dispatches from the western front today, but the Germans are still making the utmost stubbornness and are contesting every inch of the blood-soaked ground.

A dispatch from Paris says that the French soldiers have been spurred to superhuman exertions by the devastation wrought by the Germans in their retreat between Arras and the Aisne River. Everywhere, says one dispatch, is the picture of ruin caused by fire and sword.

St. Quentin is being rapidly approached. Front dispatches today reported fighting of a violence not equalled in the offensive of last summer. The French have literally been transformed into superlighting machines by their fury over the despoliation of France.

General Nivelle is evidently sharpening the point of his attack near Moy and Veneduil, between St. Quentin and La Fere, with flood of men. It is at this point that Allied troops have advanced farthest against the Germans.

To the north of St. Quentin Field Marshal Haig's British forces today were themselves forging a wedge above St. Quentin. The city is menaced from three sides now. It is believed to be one of the strongest positions in the Hindenburg line.

The British advance has been slower, but none the less methodical, than the French. Fighting of the most desperate character is marking every inch of the advance.

Terrible fighting is in progress at many points on the eighty-kilometer front. While artillery duels are continuous night and day, so violent are the bombardments and counter-bombardments that the sound of the big guns can plainly be heard in Paris, more than seventy-five miles away, it is said.

Both the British and French advances aim to cut off St. Quentin and capture that powerful point in the Hindenburg line of defense. The troops of General Haig have driven the enemy out of the important centers of Roisel and Beaumetz-lez-Cambrai, where street-to-street and house-to-house fighting took place. The Germans retreated, but their grip. The occupation of both towns has been reported.

# ALLIES POCKETING VITAL POINTS



While the British forces have occupied Roisel and cut the most direct line of communication between Cambrai and St. Quentin, the French have advanced toward the two central strongholds of the German line of defense, St. Quentin and La Fere. They have occupied two of the forts defending the latter fortress and the village of Folembra, south of the forest of Coucy. North of La Fere the French have dislodged the Germans from their positions at Castres, thus closing in on St. Quentin. The two strongholds at the center of the so-called "Von Hindenburg line" are thus being "pocketed" by the Allies.

### U-BOATS REPORT HEAVY HARVEST

Seventy-six Ships Added to List of Victims in "Few Days"

NEUTRALS HEAVY LOSERS

BERLIN, March 26.

German submarines have sunk during the last few days a total of twenty-five steamships, fourteen sailing ships and thirty-seven trawlers, in addition to losses already made public, an official announcement stated.

The United States steamships Illinois and City of Memphis were contained in the list.

The American ship Vigilance was not included in the list of U-boat victims, but it mentioned an unidentified tanker which is probably the Vigilance.

The Overseas News Agency enumerates the sunk ships as follows:

- British—Armed steamship, Bilia, 2549 tons; Denmark, 1980 tons; the patrol ship Granton; the herring trawler G. N. No. 34, drawn by a tug; steamships Glyndel, 1384 tons; Memnon, 2203 tons; hospital ship Asturias, 12,002 tons; sailing ship Sir Joseph and the following trawlers: Robert Rivind, Jessamine, Gratia, Lent, Lilly, Hyaenth, Cass, Internoz, Nelly, Ena, Kestrel, Reindeer, Forget-me-not, Try and Arance.
- French—The bark Bully; schooner Honame, Eugene Albert, Anle and Madeline Davoust; sailing ships Adeu and Marie Louise and American; pilot schooners Marthe Yvonne and Cordouan; and the trawlers Petit Jean, Henry Louis, Dieu De Garde, Nozal, Ruppelle, Louis XIV, Penitence, Azide Marie, Juliette, Camille Emilie, L. E. (1289), L. R. (1292), Madeline, Felicie, Madonna and Entente Cordiale.
- Italian—Steamship Medusa (about 1000 tons).
- Norwegian—Steamships Solferino, 1155 tons; Wilfred, 1120 tons; Greta, 1824 tons; Blaamander, 854 tons; Ronald, 1020 tons; Expedit, 680 tons; Frisk, 1138 tons; Einar Jarl, 848 tons; sailing ship, Efeu (about 500 tons).
- American—Steamships Illinois, 5220 tons; City of Memphis, 6250 tons.
- Spanish—Steamship Vivina, 2034 tons.
- Dutch—Steamship Lacampine, 2557 tons.

"Destroyed ships whose names are unknown either because they were not distinguished in the darkness of night or because no names were printed on their sides—Steamships, with cargo, about 3000 tons; hit by torpedo despite convoy; armed English steamship, about 3000 tons; steamship of about 3500 tons; tank steamer of about 2000 tons; steamship of about 8000 tons; Norwegian steamship of about 2500 tons; three-masted schooner of about 300 tons; three English and two French fishing cutters."

### GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS DEPRIVED OF POST

PETROGRAD, March 26.

From a national hero, when he was hailed as "the savior of his country," to a virtual exile—that is the changed condition which Grand Duke Nicholas finds in his fortunes today. Forced to give up his command in the army, the former commander-in-chief of the Russian military forces has been permitted to retire to his estates in Crimea to spend his declining days.

"It is the fortunes of war," was the reply of the Grand Duke to condolences of his friends.

Grand Duke Nicholas, uncle of the ex-Czar, was commander in chief of the western front during the great German and Austro-Hungarian offensives in 1916 and it was due to his skill that the Russian armies were extricated and saved from capture.

It is setting more and more evident, military critics say, that the post of commander in chief will go either to General Brusiloff or General Alexieff, present chief of staff.

### INTEREST MEN IN RED CROSS

Male Classes in First Aid a Feature of Villanova-Merion Branch

With Mrs. Harland C. Nicholson as chairman, the Ardmore branch of the Red Cross opened its headquarters in the Merion Title Building. For demonstrating first-aid and other war relief work, Miss Etta Lee, although a graduate nurse, has been engaged. The headquarters have been equipped with a hospital bed and a diet kitchen.

According to Mrs. Alexander Brown, of the Villanova-Merion branch, an effort will be made to interest men in Red Cross work.

### Municipal Flag Day Tomorrow

Municipal Flag Day will be observed throughout the city tomorrow. Thousands of flags will be displayed from homes and business houses by patriotic citizens. The City Club will have a "municipal flag day luncheon" in its clubhouse. Ernest T. Trigg, president of the club, will make a patriotic address. Some time ago Mayor Smith requested that March 27 be set aside as municipal flag day, so that citizens of Philadelphia could have an opportunity to show their patriotism at this time when the Government is confronted with the greatest crisis in its history.

### RUSSIA READY TO HALT FOE'S DRIVE ON CAPITAL

LONDON, March 26.

Hopeful that the revolution has weakened Russia's military strength, Germany is making preparations for a night effort to crush the Moscow nation.

But Russia will not be caught napping. Dispatches from Petrograd today stated that re-enforcements of men and guns are being rushed to the Dvina River front, between Riga and Dvinsk, where Von Hindenburg is expected to strike.

Powerful forces of German troops have been concentrated there with thousands of guns and mountains of ammunition for an effort to smash through an capture Petrograd.

A dispatch to the Times says that the belief is firm in Russia that if the Kaiser makes a triumphant entry into Petrograd and humbles Russia, one of his terms will be the reinstatement of Nicholas Romanoff on the throne of all the Russians.

Stirring proclamations are being issued to the army and the people by War Minister Guchoff. No effort is being made in Russia to hide the peril which besets the new provisional Government. It is admitted that members of the Socialist and workingmen's party have begun a strong propaganda in favor of peace. The workingmen are threatening strikes to further their purposes. In addition to fighting the Germans and the "dark forces" of the late autocratic Government, the Duma Ministry must contend with army cabals.

Government leaders are impressing the

# U-BOAT WATCHED HEADTON MEN DIE

## Consul Sends Captain's Report of Extraordinary Perils and Hardships

### NINETEEN OF CREW DIED

WASHINGTON, March 26.

That the submarine which torpedoed and sank without warning the American oil tanker Headton watched her founder without an effort to save the lives of those on board is made very plain in the complete affidavit of Captain Charles Christopher. This affidavit, forwarded today by Consul Krogh, from Rotterdam, declares the attack was without warning and unjustified.

While describing the trip from Philadelphia, which was uneventful until March 21, the captain states that the Headton was torpedoed twice without warning at 8:15 that night. When the vessel was first struck "Captain Christopher had the engines stopped and the boats lowered. He made a far-reaching search of the vessel for missing members of the crew. It was then ascertained that the first boat to be hoisted and its occupants were drowned. The submarine, the report says, was then 100 feet away. Krogh's message said in part:

"Voyage uneventful until 8:15 evening, when ship lay twenty-five miles north by east of Terceira lightship. Torpedoed twice without warning. First torpedo hit amidships. All lights were out. Second torpedo hit further aft under flag. Bunkers were ablaze and ship began to settle.

"After second torpedo shot, captain ordered engine stopped and crew took to boats. Voyage began to list to port. Captain made far-reaching search for missing numbers crew.

"One boat tried pull away sinking vessel and capsized. Nationality submarine impossible to determine. From action and crew believed submarine undoubtedly German. Submarine made no effort to assist crew or offer to save their lives, although but 100 feet away.

"At 8 o'clock morning, March 22 boats picked up after seventeen hours exposure. One Norwegian with arms and legs frozen.

"Perils and hardships suffered by all survivors extraordinary. Some possessed no clothes; others had no shoes; two naked stokers, Jose Jacinto and Jose Gonzalez, died from exposure.

"Stokers had clothes burned off by fire in boiler room. All members crew partially clothed; G. W. Embrey, New Orleans, first assistant engineer would have died exposure and fatigue without clothes if trawler had not picked up one hour later. Nineteen men died either capsized boats or from suffocation in bunkers, captain believes two members crew were never able to reach lifeboats because on watch below or in engine room. Two other men as previously mentioned died from exposure and burns. Engineer Embrey badly frozen; other survivors with minor afflictions as bruised and frozen ears. Heavy snow squall encountered by survivors in open boats and weather during whole night was below freezing. All survivors have now reached Rotterdam."

The consul's report of the fate of Americans follows:

"Captain Charles Christopher, Brooklyn, saved; First Mate Otto Wilrop, New York, saved; Second Mate W. Chandler, Brooklyn, saved; Third Mate W. Smith, Chicago, saved; Engineer G. W. Embrey, New Orleans, drowned or suffocated; Oliver Emory Year, Michigan, drowned or suffocated; Able Seaman J. W. Smith, Chicago, drowned; Sailor John Steiner, Pittsburgh, drowned; Second Steward George Healy, San Francisco, drowned; Chief Engineer John Caldwell, New York, saved; First Assistant Engineer G. W. Embrey, New Orleans, saved; Second Assistant Engineer G. Swanson, Brooklyn, saved; Wireless Operator M. Parker, Philadelphia, saved."

# GYPSY SLAVE-WIFE HAS THEN PAYS FINE TO HAVE HIM

## Never Works and Often Beats Her, She Tells Accusing Man Who Bought Her With \$540. Then She Changes Mind

Attention, men! Listen to this tale fresh from a gypsy camp. If you happen to be henpecked or overworked, put this in your pipe and smoke it. Then decide if you don't think the male members of the gypsy ranks have it pretty soft after all. Let's enlist!

The story was aired before Recorder Stackhouse in Camden when Peter Joyce, forty years old, who lived in the gypsy camp on the Delaware at the foot of Twenty-seventh street, was arraigned and accused of assault and battery by his wife. He is a gypsy, so is she.

Said Mrs. Joyce: "Mr. Judge, I have ten children. This man doesn't do anything but he around all day and do nothing. He beats me, swears at me, pulls my hair out and treats me bad."

"He has never worked. I don't care if he wants to leave me. I say, 'Go ahead, you loafer!' But if he wants to live with me, he gotta behave or I say go to hell."

The surprise of the hearing came when Joyce took the stand in his own defense. "What you expect?" he asked in a rich tones as he rapped his breast with his fist. "I bought this woman for \$540. You would buy a horse. I paid her in good solid gold \$20 pieces. Women for if not to work? She treat me like a dog anyway." ("Like a dog, she feeds and pets you," some of the courtroom aloud.)

Recorder Stackhouse announced that the wife treated Joyce like a dog, he'd treat the prisoner like a horse. "Months," he said.

"Don't send him to jail," Mrs. Joyce, wearily yelled. "He isn't so bad, after all. Let me pay a fine for him."

The Recorder was amazed. After hearing a powwow, however, he made the \$25. She paid. Exit all happily.

# SUPREME COURT SAVES VALUABLE LANDS IN WEST

Desert Water, Oil and Irrigation Company Loses 640-Acre Water-Power Tract in California

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Under a decision of the Supreme Court today, the Desert Water, Oil and Irrigation Company loses its fight for possession of 640 acres of land, valuable for water-power purposes. The Supreme Court reversed the decision of the California courts, which ordered the Federal forest reserve in Mono County, Cal., to be sold to the company, which is owned by the State of California.

In fighting against the condemnation, the State had contended that the land was already devoted to public use as a part of the Federal forest reserve in Mono County, Cal. The price at which the land was condemned was \$1 an acre.

# CONGRESSWOMAN RANKIN GETS HOUSE OFFICE ROOM

Miss Rankin's Secretary Selects Quarters for Occupancy of Montana Representative

WASHINGTON, March 26.—With the arrival this afternoon of Miss Florence Leach of Valier, Mont., secretary to Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress, arrangements were completed for the reception of the Montana stateswoman.

Miss Rankin was assigned to Room 322 in the House office building, directly across the corridor from that of Representative Moses P. Kinkaid, of the Sixth District of Nebraska, reputed confirmed bachelor. Representative Rankin will arrive Friday.

# OUR PLAIN DUTY

Despite the ardent hopes of our people and the sincere efforts of the President to avoid the horrors of war, we may have to take up arms in defense of our homes and the institutions of our Government.

Our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons may be called upon, each to take his place on the firing line at any moment.

It is a fine tribute to the readiness of "our boys" to meet the issue squarely and make such sacrifices as may be required of them bravely and willingly.

Now, unless we do all that we can do to mitigate as far as possible the misery and suffering of those who are stricken down in battle that we may endure as a nation, we shall be utterly unworthy of this sacrifice. If we would prove our worthiness we must do it now.

Our Government appropriations do not provide adequate means to care for our soldiers wounded in battle, and unless we, as individual citizens, make provision for their care, many will die who might otherwise recover.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross—our own chapter—has been called upon to organize immediately three base hospitals for the Army and the Navy, and to provide the necessary equipment and supplies for their operation in the field.

A base hospital is the most important link in the life-saving chain of the Red Cross work in warfare. While the battle rages, the base hospital, behind the firing line, just out of range of the enemy's guns, provides shelter and medical and surgical treatment for the wounded until they can be safely removed to the permanent hospitals in the cities and towns.

It is impossible to overestimate the vital importance of these movable field hospitals. They are the factors that determine the size of the death rate among the wounded. Without them the death rate would be twice or three times as high as it is in Europe today.

Now, it is manifestly up to us to supply this equipment which is so badly needed to preserve the lives of those who are to fight our battles.

We must raise One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars at once in Philadelphia and vicinity. We dare not put it off. Under normal conditions in times of peace it takes considerable time to purchase and assemble this equipment. After war has been declared it takes much longer to do the same work.

Only \$150,000 is needed. Let us raise it quickly and set an example in patriotism to the rest of America. Your contribution will help, no matter how small it may be.

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