

U-BOAT GOT THREE SHIPS IN CONVOY

One After Another Fell Victims to Pirate in Mediterranean

ESCORT SUNK IN CRASH

New York, May 28.—Out of Genoa in the bright moonlight on the night of April 20 steamed twenty-three ships bound for America. Huddled together like a flock of sheep feeding the wolves, they were guarded by two dogs of the sea—British yachts converted into warships and bristling with guns.

Bright though the moon was, a mist lay on the Mediterranean. The lookouts, straining their eyes anxiously from the crow's nest, could see any one far. It was a danger sea into which they ventured. For here the German submarines were making their last stand. They have the great Austrian harbor of Pola to support them, and the nests on the coast of Spain which friends in that country provide. And the Allies have been too busy in the Atlantic to give them much attention as yet.

And so the lookouts were sharp, especially on the American ship, the 5,000-ton vessel, formerly of the Old Dominion Line. Up in the crow's nest was John Willard and on deck in charge of the watch was Louis La Flamme, acting quartermaster, when midnight bell, spied a torpedo coming toward them.

Second Shot Blows Up Ship. Out of the mist it slipped white, they were crying, and thudded against the hull. But no crash followed. The torpedo had failed to explode. However, Captain Seay notified the escort.

Proceed as if nothing had happened, came the reply. On went the convoy. No man was awoken. Suddenly, at 2:13 a. m. the next morning, another torpedo slipped beneath the hull, streaked across the bows of the Tyler and struck the 8,000-ton British ship Franklin. No failure to explode about that one. The Franklin blew up with a roar.

Obedient to instructions the Tyler did not halt to give aid, but kept on going. As it passed the Franklin men on the American naval gunners stood to their piece trying to get sight of the lurking submarine.

"Torpedo coming for us," sang out Willard from the lookout, while yet they watched the Franklin.

"Good night," cried Willard a minute or two later, and he began to descend from the lookout, "here comes another."

The second torpedo struck amidships, exploded, and the Tyler began to go down.

U. S. Troops Win French Sector

Continued from Page One. barded the American lines before the attack. The Hunns also dropped scores of mustard gas shells along the American front.

According to military experts, the German purpose in attacking the American lines was to feel out the strength of the French and American force. As a result of their curiosity they got a severe trouncing. The bombardment that preceded the raid was one of the heaviest American troops have ever felt. It is estimated that 10,000 shells dropped within the American lines.

Five hundred picked shock troops attacked in the center and were supported on one side by a force of 120 and on the other by a force of 140.

There were three distinct attacks. The first, before Fontaine-sous-Montdidier, was at 6:15. The second and third were launched simultaneously at 7:30, one in the fight of Cantigny and the other again before Fontaine-sous-Montdidier.

Take Prisoner from Germans. In the first attack the retreating Germans were taking an American prisoner with them when several of his comrades leaped from the trenches, caught up with the boches, killed the entire party guarding the prisoners and brought him back.

This second attack before Fontaine-sous-Montdidier was as violent as the first, but the enemy was unable to penetrate the American lines. The counter-attack then carried the trenches to the boche line, which they held for more than an hour.

Near Cantigny the Germans got such a hot reception that they did not attempt to repeat the assault. Observers reported heavy enemy losses, artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, cutting down the advancing boches who left a great number of dead in No Man's Land.

The three attacks netted the Americans five German prisoners, American positions were considerably masked by working hard to reconstruct them in preparation for a resumption of the German assault.

Forced Bayonet Fight. The fighting was extremely bitter. Opposing forces clashed hand-to-hand in the midst of smashed sand bags and caved-in parapets. The Germans were loaded down with hand grenades, but the Americans rushed to close quarters, struck by a high-explosive shell. Their comrades dug them out under shellfire, which turned aside a bayonet thrust, unless it were in the neck or stomach.

One company, counter-attacking before Cantigny, penetrated the German lines clear into the ruins of the village, where they remained until called back.

This dispatch is being written in a dugout in the rear of the front lines, and reports of the details of the fighting are coming in slowly.

Attention Man in Three. I just learned that three private—B. Rowden, of Kentucky; Joseph Lawrence, of Allentown, Pa., and A. D. Nolin, of Providence, R. I.—were among several who were buried for three or four hours when their dugout was struck by a high-explosive shell. Their comrades dug them out under shellfire. When they were finally excavated they popped out smiling. They were taken to the first aid station from which they soon departed—with the correspondent's cigarette supply.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN THICK OF FIGHT. Washington, May 28.—American troops are in the thick of things on the western front.

This fact was proved today from General Pershing's communique, declaring that the enemy was completely expelled after entering the American lines in Picardy and that the United States forces entered the German lines through counter-attacks.

The same statement said that in the Woëvre a strong hostile raiding party was repulsed with "losses in killed and wounded."

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The fighting in Flanders, he said, is centered east of Dikbebusch Lake, where the Germans made temporary gains against the French troops in the resumption of their drive yesterday morning.

Battle Raging. The battle resulting from the new German offensive along the Aisne River heights, from a point north of Rheims to the sector of the Pinon forest (nine miles northeast of Soissons) has continued with deadly losses to the Germans.

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Alles Valorous. The British forces on the Aisne front held part of the line in the Terey-sau-Bac sector, where the fighting zone crosses the river from the south to the southwest. The Allies in that district fought with magnificent valor, but the British left flank was compelled, after a desperate struggle, to retire to foot to previously prepared second-line positions.

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Amiens Critical Point. "However formidable Monday's attack, the point holding the greatest menace is still before Amiens," said the military critic of the Times today. "We may take it to be reasonably certain that the addition of another 12 (37) miles to the battlefield does not mean abandonment of thrust against Amiens along the Somme estuary, or the abandonment of the thrust against the channel ports."

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