

EPIC OF VERDUN TOLD BY PETAIN

Hero Vividly Describes to King Alfonso How French Valor Baffled Germany

SOME UNWRITTEN HISTORY

Verdun, Oct. 28.—During King Alfonso's visit yesterday to this historic place, Marshal Petain, the chief defender of the citadel, vividly described to the Spanish sovereign the tremendous struggle fought in February and March, 1916.

After depositing in the military cemetery a wreath of orchids tied with ribbons forming the Spanish colors upon which was painted a tribute from the royal visitor, the latter and his distinguished guide turned to the battlefield. They reached Fort Douaumont at 10 o'clock. Great interest in the fort was evidenced by the king, who asked to be shown the underground passages leading to the outer redoubts. When he and the marshal emerged from the deep shelters they were both stained with mud.

France was not surprised by the German offensive against Verdun. Marshal Petain told the king during their walk over the field. The king was pressed surprise at this information, as it has been generally believed the Germans attacked without warning.

"We knew of the attack," he said, "six weeks before, we had received our first information from learning of the construction of a formidable system of railroads leading to Verdun.

Two Divisions Held Five Corps "As proof that we were not surprised, I must say we sent for the Twentieth Corps, which reached Verdun February 25. It did not fall from heaven. However, the fact remains that when the battle of Verdun began, we had on the right bank of the Meuse only two divisions opposing five German army corps. These two divisions held their positions for five days before the situation was grave.

On February 25 the troops which had been occupying the Woerwe sector (to the east of Verdun) were ordered to fall back to the heights of the Meuse. The order was criticized then, but its wisdom was later recognized.

Takes Command of Army "Since I had received an order from great headquarters to establish contact with General Castelnau's division which had been defending Fort Douaumont and now was falling back on Verdun, I met General Castelnau at Souilly. All he said was: 'Take command of the army.' That day, on the morning of February 26 I assumed command. I distributed the duties among Generals Guillaumat, Duchesne and De Balfourier, ordered that another inch of ground be given up and that the defenders should reply to every attack by a counter-offensive.

During the eight days that followed, the village of Douaumont changed hands ten times, but the Germans held the fort.

"I understand now," said King Alfonso, "why during those hours we knew nothing of what was going on here."

Douaumont and Dead Man's Hill "At last on March 4," Marshal Petain resumed, "the village was definitely ours, and on March 6 when the German attacked on the left bank of the Meuse I was ready to receive them. It had always appeared strange to me that an attack had not been launched on the left bank of the river and every thing was prepared in view of such an assault. It was because the enemy deferred that attack too long that we were able to restore the situation. That delay saved us."

"Then came the gigantic struggle for Hill 304 and Dead Man's Hill. It was then I issued my order of the day: 'Surge, we will get them.'"

Marshal Petain then told the story of General Mangin's offensive on May 22, by which Douaumont village was stormed, adding that the Germans put five new divisions into the line during the preceding fifteen days and from May 22 to June 23 hurled eight other divisions in to the fight, only to gain but 500 yards.

"The enemy after this fighting was shouting 'victory,'" said the marshal disdainfully.

General Mangin's offensive on October 26, when Fort Douaumont was recaptured, and the Germans forced to evacuate the village and fort of Vaux, with the loss of 13,000 prisoners, were then described.

"At the end of 1916," the French chief of staff concluded, "our situation was favorable on the right bank of the Meuse, but bad on the left. On August 20, 1917, however, our offensive on both banks of the Meuse brought us back to our original lines of February, 1916, and on that day we gathered in everything we wished."

Marshal Petain and King Alfonso walked out over what was known as No Man's Land and which now shows no sign of life.

The party returned to Verdun shortly before noon.

PEACE DRIVE SHAM, SAYS BERNSTORFF

Former Ambassador Declares Germany Had No Intention of Accepting Wilson's Offers

U-BOATS RUINED HIS PLANS

By the Associated Press Berlin, Oct. 23.—The examination of Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador at Washington, was resumed yesterday by the committee investigating the responsibility of German officials for the war. Former Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, Dr. Karl Helfferich and Alfred Zimmermann were again present. Replying to one of the deputies, Count von Bernstorff declared there was one German-American controversy after another throughout 1915 and even until May 4, 1916.

"Every time we thought we had attained something," he said, "there was another sinking or some other incident tending to aggravate the position, which rendered all negotiations in America illusory."

Captain von Papeu, the former German military attaché at Washington, and Franz von Rintelen, an alleged secret agent of the German Government, were named in the testimony. Count von Bernstorff admitted that von Papeu and von Rintelen had been recalled at the request of the United States for the purpose of making efforts to cause a cessation of hostilities.

Count von Bernstorff declared that he had conferred with Secretary Lansing, whom he quoted as saying he did not suspect von Rintelen of complicity with von Papeu and von Rintelen.

Killed Hope of Peace Questions by members of the committee brought positive declarations from von Bernstorff to the effect that the German peace offer, in reply to President Wilson's offer to negotiate peace, whereby Germany refused to re-establish and reimburse Belgium, absolutely killed all hope of peace.

Count von Bernstorff asserted that he asked President Wilson, Secretary Lansing and Colonel House to establish an embargo on certain goods which were being sent to the Entente. He threw a bomb at the U-boat adherents by telling them that President Wilson had arranged with England to have certain articles taken off the blacklist and that the blockade would thus be partially relieved. The plan was spoiled early in January, 1917, when the unrestricted U-boat warfare was announced.

Von Bernstorff quoted Colonel House as saying that the U-boat warfare was welcomed at first by the Entente powers, as they had tried every other means to get the United States into the war. The former ambassador testified with some bitterness that there never was a time he attempted a rapprochement

that another vessel was not sunk and matters made worse.

Germany Insistence Von Bernstorff said that since returning to Germany and learning the inner details of the proceedings when Germany had no intention of accepting President Wilson's offer. He started his denials by declaring the United States Federal Reserve Bank had a plan mapped out to deny Entente nations credits, but this plan was again spoiled by the work of submarines. The chairman of the commission asked whether it was "impossible to convince Mr. Wilson that U-boat warfare was necessary as a last resort against hunger."

The former ambassador replied he had conferred with Mr. Wilson on the subject, and the President had repeatedly said that if von Bernstorff met him on the U-boat proposition he (the President) would see about the hunger blockade.

At the close of the session von Bernstorff declared that, as he had been able to reveal some hitherto confidential matters, he would go to Bavaria where the present investigation was closed to write a book, the publication of which would be delayed until the middle of December.

Acting foreign office and the consular here, according to Koessler, says Herr von Gruenelius, a relative of former Imperial Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg. Koessler has admitted having introduced Herr von Gruenelius to Deputy Jean Longuet, M. Longuet admits meeting Herr von Gruenelius, but asserts it was a social visit. He adds that the charge is a "political maneuver on the part of his enemies on the eve of the elections."

Literature seized at the home of Koessler bore the caption, "The Neutral Republic of Alsace-Lorraine," and called upon the population of the two provinces to separate from France as well as Germany.

Peasant Party Accuses Ferdinand and Two Ex-Premiers of War Blame Geneva, Oct. 23.—A Belgrade dispatch says the powerful peasant party in Bulgaria demands the arrest and trial of King Ferdinand and also of ex-Premiers Radoslawoff and Malinoff as being responsible for the war and leading Bulgaria into misery and the loss of provinces. According to the dispatch, confiscation of all the royal possessions also is demanded.

Would Try Bulgar King Captain Karl Boy-Ed, former naval attaché, and Franz von Rintelen, an alleged secret agent of the German Government, were named in the testimony. Count von Bernstorff admitted that von Papeu and von Rintelen had been recalled at the request of the United States for the purpose of making efforts to cause a cessation of hostilities.

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BLAMES ALSACE PLOT ON GERMANY

Koessler Confesses Conspiracy to Set Up "Neutral" Republic in "Lost Provinces"

Strasbourg, Oct. 23.—(By A. P.)—The conspiracy for a revolt in Alsace-Lorraine, having for its object the establishment of an autonomous republic here, is assuming greater proportions. Koessler, the alleged architect of the conspiracy, who has been arrested, has, according to military authorities, made a confession, admitting that he has received 500,000 francs from Germany since last May. The funds were sent to him from Baden-Baden.

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REPORT BELA KUN IN ITALY

Berlin, Oct. 23.—(By A. P.)—Bela Kun, former dictator in Hungary during the Communist regime, has escaped from the internment camp at Vienna and has gone to Italy, where he is engaged in promoting a revolutionary movement, according to a Geneva dispatch to the Tageblatt.

IN MEMORIAM SCHUBERT—In loving remembrance of our dear mother, LOUISE C. SCHUBERT, who departed this life October 19, 1919. FATHER AND CHILDREN.

Deaths BARKER—Oct. 21, JOHN J. husband of Marie Barker (nee Schlegel). Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, on Sat. 11 a. m., from his late residence, Jonkintown, Philadelphia, Pa. Int. private. Burial, Greenwood cemetery, Philadelphia, Pa. Int. private.

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Advertisement for Winkelman Button Boots, featuring 'The latest Autumn models in these smartest of Dress shoes. Black and the newest colors.' and '38-40 S. 52d Street 2961-63 Frankford Ave.'

Advertisement for Forbes Hats, featuring 'FORBES 1115 CHESTNUT ST. (OPPOSITE KEITH'S) A Reduction Sale of Hats' and 'When you can buy such STYLE in these HATS at the nominal price of \$9.50'.

Advertisement for Dr. Scholl's Foot Comfort Appliances, featuring 'Do you have weak arch, metatarsal trouble or flat foot?' and 'Each is a serious foot condition, the underlying cause of many foot troubles that can easily be corrected in a practical, scientific way'.