



GERMANS TAKE VERDUN OUTER FORT BY STORM

Capture of Northeastern Pillar of Permanent Defense Circling Great French Fortress in Furious Assault Claimed by Germans; Places Teutons Another Step Nearer Direct Route to Paris

Serious Breaches Torn in French Lines; Stronghold Is Menaced From East and Southeast as Well as North and Northeast; Resistance in Woivre Is Broken; "Buckling-up" Process on Fortress May Be Used



Gen. de Castelnau, the French Chief of Staff who is directing the defense of Verdun against the gigantic attack of the Germans.

The tremendous German offensive aimed at Verdun is gaining force hourly and new and serious breaches have been made in the French lines, Berlin announces to-day.

Not only has Fort Douaumont, one of the outlying defenses of the stronghold been taken but French resistance on the plain of the Woivre to the east has been broken, according to the German bulletin, which reports that the Germans are pursuing their beaten foe along the Woivre front to a point south of the Paris-Metz highway which runs through Verdun.

The buckling-up process being carried out by the Germans on both sides of the salient in which Verdun lies would, if continued far enough, compel the evacuation of the fortress by the French, even should the Germans not be able to reach it by direct assault.

Paris Has Not Conceded Fall Although the substantial successes noted are officially claimed by the Germans, Paris has not conceded them. "After the last engagement our troops retained their position in spite of the repeated assaults of the enemy, which no longer counts his sacrifices," the afternoon bulletin declares.

The presence of Emperor William with the troops on the German front is confirmed by to-day's Berlin official statement.

Berlin, Feb. 26, via London.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont (one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Germans.

The official announcement is as follows: The armored Fort Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent line in line fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun was stormed yesterday afternoon by the 24th regiment of Brandenburg infantry and is now firmly in German hands.

Fort Douaumont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from the city of Metz.

Douaumont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. Forts De Saulville, De Tavannes and St. Michel lie directly between the position conquered by the Germans and the city of Verdun.

The conquest of this fort was made by the night wing of the huge attacking army, which has scored the greatest advance in the assault on the French positions. Douaumont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherto been the principal line of progress, being situated four miles east of the Meuse river. The main force of the German attack, as intimated by the previous official communications, was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun, an onslaught which for fury and for weight of men and guns has few precedents in the war. The French war office has expressed confidence that notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortresses would be able to hold out.

Verdun marks the northerly point of the great French defenses against direct attacks from German territory, the most southerly being Bellefleur, as between these two points lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France. France has other fortified points further north, though in minor importance, as they were along the line of contact with Belgium and Luxembourg. The most important of these latter was Maunbourg which was taken by the Germans with sacrifices to them estimated at the time, in September 1914, as being \$8,000 and 140,000. Since that date no important fortress has fallen to the Germans on the western front. At the same period a desperate effort was made to reduce Verdun and some thousands of the fighting which then occurred were of a memorable character.

During the siege of Fort Troyon, near Verdun, in September 1914, the commander of the fort ceased to reply to the bombardment. The Germans, it was said, believing that the fort had been evacuated and approached in order to destroy a redoubt. The commander of the fort then set fire to two carloads of straw inside the structure and the Germans convinced that their shells had started the fire and that they could easily take the place, advanced in close formation. The French suddenly brought their machine guns to bear with a deadly fire and the bodies of 7,000 Germans were said to have been abandoned on the slopes below Fort Troyon.

Lloyd Fearful of Result A dispatch from London of yesterday's date said that Major General Sir Francis Lloyd, general officer, commanding the London district, in a speech at the opening of a military building declared that the battle before Verdun was of momentous importance to Great Britain as well as to France.

"Do you realize?" he asked, "that a fight is now going on for a passage to Paris. The result will hang in the balance until the Teutons are driven back, as I have great confidence he will be. But if our allies' line is pierced the way will be open to the French capital and if that capital is reached a new complexion would be put on our lives and being. A German success on the French front would not merely mean the loss of Paris but would endanger London."

Loss Not Admitted The loss of Fort Douaumont, four miles to the northeast of Verdun, however, is not admitted in to-day's French official statement, which declares that despite the desperate German assaults the French have maintained their positions.

While the German wing on the east has been driven at Fort Douaumont and its protecting trenches the center of the Crown Prince's forces has worked down the Meuse valley until it is hammering at the ridge of La Cote Du Poivre, just south of Louve-

Yesterdays Weather Highest temperature, 37. Lowest temperature, 32. Mean temperature, 34. Normal temperature, 52.

SCHWAB TO BUILD FOUR BLAST FURNACES HERE IMMEDIATELY



That it is the plan of Charles M. Schwab and his associates to make the big plant of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, at Steelton, recently purchased, one of the blast industries in the State, is evident from recent interviews with E. G. Grace, the energetic young president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, and one of the men closest to Mr. Schwab.

U. E. CONFERENCE HAS MEMBERSHIP OF 25 THOUSAND

Church Property Worth Nearly Two Million and Quarter Report Shows

Reports submitted at the session of the East Pennsylvania Conference of the United Evangelical Church in Harris Street Church, Susquehanna and Harris streets, this morning showed substantial increases along all lines of the church's activities, with a total of 25,718 communicant members, a Sunday school enrollment of 44,634 and property holdings throughout the Harrisburg, Allentown and Reading districts totaling \$2,150,275.

MANY CHANGES IN RULES GOVERNING CITY'S TRAFFIC

Will Become Effective March 1; Pedestrians Get Their Orders, Too

The new city traffic regulations, effective March 1, contain complete rules for pedestrians, together with several important changes in the system in use now.

Hickok Co. Will Not Make Munitions Says President of Firm

W. Orville Hickok, III, president of the W. O. Hickok Manufacturing Company, to-day declared that there was not the slightest foundation for the report that the Hickok Company, which is just occupying a fine new plant, is about to engage in the manufacture of munitions.

BENNINGER A CANDIDATE

Representative William M. Benninger, one of the mainstays of the Northampton delegation in the last House of Representatives, to-day filed papers to run again.

EDWARD L. KEARNS APPOINTED HEAD OF 18TH REGIMENT

Edward L. Kearns, Pittsburgh lawyer and former resident of Harrisburg, was to-day appointed by Governor Brumbaugh to be colonel of the Eighteenth Regiment of the National Guard, with headquarters in Pittsburgh. Colonel Kearns was lieutenant-colonel of the regiment and is one of the best known National Guard officers in the State.

HOTELS MAY BE REQUIRED TO GO 'DRY' WEDNESDAY

Bars Must Be Closed March 1 in Hostelrys Not Licensed by That Date

Will certain of the hotels and saloons in city and county be compelled for a time, at least, to go "dry" after March 1?

Hold Ex-Convict, Hoping to Run Down Firebug Clues

Lewis Blouch, an ex-convict of 1427 Vernon street, whom the police believe, may aid them in solving the series of incendiary fires on Allison Hill, was held under \$600 bail for court by Alderman Edward J. Hilton, after a hearing last evening.

HERRICK IN SENATORIAL RACE

Columbus, O., Feb. 26.—Myron T. Herrick, of Cleveland, ex-United States Ambassador to France, yesterday filed his declaration of candidacy for the Republican nomination for United States Senator.

GIRL WITNESS IS TAKEN OFF TRAIN BY MULVIHILL

Mulvihill took Miss Gallagher, who is only 17 years old, and her father, Charles F. Gallagher, to the office of Attorney George E. Shaw, of brewery counsel, before she appeared in answer to the subpoena served at the office of a series of lectures.

More Silk Stockings Remedy For Martial Woes

South Bend, Ind., Feb. 26.—"If there were more silk stockings worn and women gave more time to better grooming, there would be fewer divorces and, I am very sure, fewer afflictions," was the statement of George Burns Lacour, who is delivering a series of lectures.

REJECTED HIM

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 26.—Angered because his marriage proposal was continually rejected by Mrs. Tony Costa, Frank Aposto to-day fired four shots at her from across the street and when he saw her fall turned the weapon on himself, putting a bullet in his brain. Mrs. Costa was slightly injured.

CONGRESS QUIETS DOWN IN ARMED VESSEL CRISIS

Submarine Situation Shifts Back to Negotiations Between U. S. and Germany

WILSON STILL FIRM

Believed Allies Will Accept Proposal to Disarm Merchant Ships

Washington, Feb. 26.—With the apparent quieting down of the situation in Congress, the submarine crisis shifts back to the negotiations between Secretary Lansing and Count Von Bernstorff.

Mr. Lansing said to-day there was no intention of transferring the negotiations to Berlin to be conducted between Ambassador Gerard and the Berlin Foreign Office, as was intimated in dispatches published abroad, and reiterated that the State Department had heard nothing more from Germany on its request for a declaration that the new submarines campaign would not be conducted in violation of previous assurances for the safety of Americans traveling on unresisting liners.

While the situation in Congress apparently is being held in check by the administration leaders, the State Department continues to await receipt of certain appendices to the Austro-German notice which are intended to demonstrate that British armed merchantships have used their guns offensively against submarines. They are coming by mail.

On the situation as it now stands, [Continued on Page 5.]

VILLAGE LOCKUP STOLEN

Beaver Falls, Pa., Feb. 26.—The lockup of the little village of Home-wood, five miles north of here, is mysteriously missing. The building, which had a steel cage for two prisoners, was a wooden structure with iron gratings over the windows. Yesterday Constable Eckman, of Home-wood, brought a prisoner to the county jail here and the disappearance of the lockup became known. It is said that a farmer, whose name is unknown, passing the lockup late one evening, placed it on his wagon and carted it away. Constable Eckman believes it is being used for a chicken coop or kennel.

DAILY WAGE RULE IN COMPENSATION FOR 2,000,000 MEN

Compensation Board Determines Upon Plan Which Will Affect All Employes

QUESTION LONG AGITATED

Miners and Organized Railroad Men Vitrally Affected by the New Ruling

The State Workmen's Compensation Board settled upon a plan for determining what shall constitute a daily wage in compensation affairs after having had the matter under discussion for two months. The decision was reached after a consultation with Attorney General Brown and Commissioner of Labor Jackson and the State officials say that they are prepared to stand a test of it even in the courts.

The ruling on this question which will affect over 2,000,000 wage-earners in the State and which vitally concerns miners, railroad men and iron and steel workers is as follows: "Wages is the amount in money value agreed upon in the contract of employment, written or oral, in force [Continued on Page 12.]

Five-Year-Old Roosters Stolen; Halifax Cops Seek Dislocated Jaw

[From Our Halifax Correspondent.] Halifax, Pa., Feb. 26.—During the week several dirty scoundrels have been visiting the henneries about town, owned by some of our well-known citizens and has been helping himself to some of the chickens.

HELD HIGHWAYMAN

Harrisburg.—Marion Churchman, charged with holding up and robbing George B. Davis, of \$20 last night, was held for court under \$1,000 bail by Alderman Nicholas at police court to-day.

"BILLY," "MA" AND REST OF PARTY HERE

Harrisburg.—On their way from Winona Lake to Baltimore where a campaign will be started to-morrow, "Billy," "Ma" and George Sunday with the rest of the party stopped off here between trains this afternoon.

DENABY SUNK; TWO DEAD; SEVEN MISSING

London, Feb. 26.—Lloyds announces the sinking of the British steamer Denaby, of 2987 tons, and Tummel, of 531 tons. Seven members of the crews are missing. Of five survivors, who were picked up two died.

ITALIANS EVACUATE DURAZZO

Rome, Feb. 26.—The report that Durazzo, an Albanian port on the Adriatic sea, had been evacuated by the Italian troops stationed there is confirmed.

NINE KILLED IN ITALIAN WRECK

Cortona, Italy Feb. 26.—A military train was derailed here to-day and the locomotive, baggage car and four coaches were wrecked. Nine persons were killed and more than fifty injured.

PENETRATE GERMAN LINES IN CHAMPAGNE

Berlin, Feb. 26, via London.—The French forces in the Champagne district have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Marie-a-Py. The war office statement to-day says the French penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of about 250 yards.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Joel Harman and Sophia Ray Abelson, Philadelphia. John Baptist Knott and Nono Alena Griffith, Altoona. Roy Cook, city, and Ada May Welker, Dillsburg.