

BIG GERMAN GUNS WRECK 400 MORE HOUSES IN RHEIMS

Latest Bombardment Reported to Have Been the Most Severe of the War.

3,000 SHELLS THROWN.

Flies Started in Many Places and Whole Blocks of Houses Collapsed.

PARIS, Feb. 25 (Associated Press).—The bombardment of Rheims was more severe on the night of Feb. 25-26 than at any other time, according to a German report from Rheims, which was in the city at that time. The German shells fell at 9 o'clock and continued to rain down until 2:15 A. M. The projectiles came from all parts of the German front from the north-west to the east.

The gunners seemed to aim especially at the First Ward of the city. This section hitherto had been spared. Five blocks out in twenty places at once and whole blocks collapsed like cards. Official reports show that more than 3,000 shells have been thrown on the old working quarter of the city, causing the destruction of 400 houses. The bombardment was continued until 2:15 A. M. and continued intermittently until 5 o'clock P. M.

Military activities in the vicinity of Verdun in the month of February are described in an official statement of the War Office. The statement says: "The investment of Verdun always has been one of the objects of the German General Staff, and the message they have taken to this end have been both costly and serious. The German offensive movement in the direction of the extended camp of the Meuse was checked at St. Mihiel, and the enemy could not advance against the eastern defenses of this locality.

"Along the heights of the Meuse the line of battle has remained unchanged for several months past. When the German staff decided to try a new offensive in the direction of the Meuse, they occupied Vimont and Hattenbach and the Forest of Montagne. Further to the west they could not maintain their former gains, and later French troops occupied the northern extremity of the heights of the Meuse.

"At the village of Dompreux, in a valley of the Meuse, the enemy had taken a strong position, but we were successful in driving them from it in spite of their fierce defense. The fighting was marked by hand-to-hand engagements of great violence. In one place alone the Germans left 100 dead. Survivors to the number of 50 were captured. Attacks and counter-attacks on these positions continued with varying success. The fighting finally came to an end Feb. 21 with victory for the French. The loss of the enemy amounted to 1,000 men and the loss of their best strength equipment."

773 BRITISH SAILINGS, 793 ARRIVALS SINCE NEW "BLOCKADE" BEGAN.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The British Admiralty has announced that since Feb. 25 when the German naval war zone was closed, 773 British sailings and 793 arrivals have been reported. The British Admiralty has said that the closure of the zone has had a beneficial effect on the shipping trade.

DRINK MORE WATER IF KIDNEYS BOTHER. Eat Less Meat and Take Salts for Backache or Bladder Trouble.

FORLORN HOPES FALL TO "SECRET 150" OF BELGIANS

Daring Feats Performed by Anonymous Band of Heroes Along Yser.

MOST OF THEM NOBLES.

Work So Perilous That Its Members Have Been Wiped Out Twice.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS (United Press Staff Correspondent). WITH THE BELGIAN ARMY, Feb. 2 (by mail).—The romances of Swabian chivalry are daily outdone here among the floods of Flanders, where the army of King Albert stands with his back to the wall fighting to hold the little strip of Belgian soil still to be called its own.

For instance, there is the secret band of "The Hundred and Fifty." It is composed of volunteer soldiers, picked men who map their fingers in the face of death, and who, when worst comes to worst, meet their doom with a jaunty smile on their lips, a smile tinged just a little with scorn and which says to the grim grimacing squad, "Shoot and be hanged! It's little I care!"

The general public knows little or nothing of "The Hundred and Fifty," but there isn't a Belgian trooper who doesn't know of the band and speak of it with something of awe and mystery in his voice. When an enterprise is on foot requiring supreme daring, unflinching courage, a do-or-die determination of an almost superhuman sort, the Hundred and Fifty is called upon—and it never fails.

The band furnished the necessary man or men, and if there do not move on over until the thing required is accomplished. Impossible as it may seem of the men in the secret band, they have met death in other words, the band has been wiped out more than twice.

The lay of the land, so to speak, brought the darddevil group into being, a necessary result of the peculiar fighting now going on hereabouts. Imagine an almost endless stretch of marshes extending for many, many miles in all directions, a river whose bed is higher than the surrounding country cutting through the middle. Checkboardways, this, imagine long, straight highways, built up, but barely emerging from the sea water which has inundated the whole landscape except a few islands which dot the waste of water here and there.

In short, imagine the dreariest, wettest spot on earth and you will have the scene of the battle of the Yser as it is now being waged between the Belgians and the Germans. The two fronts pass along the course of the Yser in a general way, the battle line occupying the roads and islands. The only means of advance in the ordinary way is along the roads now practically an impossibility, since one machine gun can hold off a regiment.

To take the islands troops must wade from knee to neck deep in the ice cold sea water or cross on rafts or rafts, an equally impossible feat during daylight hours. Stealth must be the keynote of every advance along this part of the line, and black nights are the only screens available for troops here.

It is the work of the 150 to prepare surprise or, as frequently happens, snare attacks by large numbers of infantry have become impossible on account of the water, to make the dash themselves. NONE OF PARTY OF TWENTY CAME BACK. Here is an illustration: It was learned that the Germans had established themselves on one of the many islands jutting out of the inundation and were using it for various effective operations.

ALLIED WAR FLEET FIGHTING WAY PAST THE TURKISH FORTS

Great Naval Battle Imminent as Thirty-two Warships Enter Dardanelles.

SHELLS HIT 3 VESSELS.

Twelve Inner Fortresses Still to Be Reduced—Turkish Fleet Awaits Enemy.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Pursued by mine sweepers, the allied fleet under Vice Admiral Carden, it is reported from Athens, has moved past the destroyed Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles and has begun shelling land fortifications on both sides of the strait. There are thirty-two warships in the fleet.

Twenty-five miles away the Turkish fleet is lying in Nagura Roads, the narrowest part of the waterway. If the French and English warships batter their way past the great chain of forts leading to the Nagura Roads one of the great naval battles of the war may be fought in the narrow, river-like channel.

Official announcement that the outer forts of the Dardanelles have been reduced aroused great enthusiasm in London. Military experts made no effort to minimize the great obstacles still facing Carden's fleet before the warships can emerge in the sea of Marmora and begin the bombardment of Constantinople. They must pass through a channel thickly strewn with mines and fight their way past a series of forts.

Fifteen miles inside, the strait narrows to a width of 11-5 miles. A small island further obstructs the channel at this point and twelve fortifications, nine on the European and three on the Asiatic side, command the waterway. These forts are equipped with heavy Krupp.

Reports from various sources confirm yesterday's Athens dispatches that the Turkish Government has made preparations to abandon Constantinople. This is taken as an official admission that eventually the allied fleets must force their way through the Dardanelles, bottle up and destroy the Turkish navy and drive one of Germany's allies from the war.

CONSTANTINOPLE (via London) Feb. 25 (Associated Press).—Three warships of the allies were damaged in the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts Feb. 25, according to an announcement given out to-day at the headquarters in Constantinople of the Turkish Army. The report says: "Ten big armored vessels on Feb. 25 again bombarded the Turkish forts at the Dardanelles for a period of seven and a half hours. At the conclusion of this operation they retired in the direction of the Island of Tenedos."

One ship of the Agamemnon type and two other armored vessels were damaged by the fire from the forts on the Asiatic side of the strait. The Agamemnon type of British battleship is of 14,000 tons displacement and 435 feet long, with a main battery of four 13-inch guns.

64 AMERICAN ARTISTS REFUSED PASSPORTS BY EMBASSY AT PARIS. PARIS, Feb. 25 (Associated Press).—Sixty-four applications for passports for American artists living in Paris have been refused by the American Embassy in conformity with instructions recently received from the State Department at Washington requiring the presentation of birth certificates.

Famous Plunger in Wheat Who Testified at Bread Inquiry



JOSEPH LEITER.

GAINS BY ALLIES IN STIFF FIGHTS AT TWO POINTS

British Reported to Have Repulsed Attacks Along La Bassee Road.

PARIS, Feb. 25 (United Press).—Further gains for allies all along the battle front, particularly in the fighting west of La Bassee and in the Apremont forest, were reported in official dispatches to the war office to-day.

The British repulsed another series of German charges along the La Bassee-Bethune road. They counter-attacked and threw the Germans back in confusion, gaining 100 yards of trenches.

In the Apremont region French infantry attacks caused severe losses to the Germans. At the point of the bayonet the French forced the enemy to evacuate several trenches. Fighting in the Champagne region continues, with the French making steady progress around Perthes. The Belgians are stubbornly resisting German drives against their positions in the flooded area in Flanders. They made a successful attack yesterday, recapturing a trench previously taken by the Germans.

German artillery bombarded the French positions along the Aisne for several hours yesterday. The French replied effectively, silencing several German batteries.

THREE MEN LOST LIVES WHEN STEAMER CARIB STRUCK GERMAN MINE. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—It was officially reported to-day that three men lost their lives when the American steamer Carib sank off Norderney. Consul General Liston at Rotterdam sent this word to the State Department.

BERLIN TAKES UP AMERICAN NOTE ON USE OF MINES

Sentiment Seems to Be That It Provides Good Basis for Negotiation.

BERLIN (via London), Feb. 25 (Associated Press).—The American note to Germany and Great Britain on the subject of foodstuffs to civilian populations of belligerents and submarine activities at sea, a copy of which was handed to the German Foreign Office by Ambassador Gerard the night of Feb. 22, has been a subject of discussion for two days between the German Imperial authorities concerned and the American Ambassador.

The correspondent of the Associated Press has been assured that the American proposals are regarded as constituting a satisfactory basis for negotiation and that they are themselves in many respects acceptable.

There is good reason to believe that the American note deals with three principal subjects—mine and submarine blockade of coasts, the use of floating mines and the entry of foodstuffs for civilian populations.

Judging from a general knowledge of German policy and intentions, it may be said with confidence that little difficulty will be experienced, so far as Germany is concerned, in reaching a mutual agreement for the discontinuance of floating mines. The attitude of the German Admiralty on mine planting along hostile coasts has not been announced.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Administration officials are awaiting responses to the American Government's informal proposals to Great Britain and Germany for the elimination of dangers to neutral shipping. These suggestions include removal of all unnecessary mines in the high seas and provide for the distribution of foodstuffs to the German civilian population and the abandonment of the German submarine warfare on merchant ships.

FARMERS BLAMED BY JOE LEITER FOR HIGH WHEAT PRICES

Grain Expert at Bread Inquiry Declares They're the Real Speculators.

HOARD UP THEIR GRAIN.

Board of Trade Speculation Has Tended Only to Keep Prices Down, He Says.

Joseph Leiter, the young man who distinguished himself in 1897 and 1898 by establishing a grain corner that sent the price of wheat up 40 cents a bushel before it broke and knocked him out of the market, was the first witness to-day at the State investigation into the rise in the price of bread.

"You had a great deal of experience in grain" asked Mr. Becker. "Yes, in 1897," said Mr. Leiter. "And it came in a bunch?" "Very much so," he replied. "I dealt in grain markets all over the world."

"You have dealt in the grain market since?" "Yes; at times." "This year?" "No," said Mr. Leiter. "I haven't been in the market for a year."

Then Mr. Becker asked him to tell about wheat, from the earth to the consumer. Mr. Leiter began with his experience when in the western prairies were first sown to wheat, when hours of labor were twelve to thirteen a day, wages \$15 a month and "found," and the ground needed no fertilizer.

In those days, 60 cents a bushel was a profitable price for wheat. Now, with wages more than doubled, the working day cut down to eight or nine hours, the soil incapable of growing wheat without fertilizing, and other costs steadily mounting, the farmer must have at least \$1 a bushel, he declared.

"FARMERS' TRUST," HE SAYS. According to Mr. Leiter, the speculators in wheat are really the men who keep the price of flour from going too high.

"If," he said, "you abolished speculation in grain, the farmers would get together, as the tobacco growers did in Kentucky, and fix a minimum price. Then you'd get the farmers into a trust that would make all the others look puny. If you confine dealings to actual cash grain transactions and stop dealing in futures, the business would become highly speculative immediately."

"The miller would have to take his profit right at the mill, and the driving people out of the milling business and put it in the hands of gamblers, who would take a real toll out of the people."

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"The farmer of the United States has been in such a position during the last fifteen years, not having a mortgage on his farm and not being forced to market his wheat the moment it is harvested, that he can sit on his grain and wait till he gets a satisfactory price. The farmers have become the great grain speculators of the country. Sometimes they sit and wait two or three years. At times like this, supplies come out that have not been covered by the Government estimates. If it were not for this, the visible supply prices to-day would be very much higher."

Mr. Leiter declared that up to Feb. 1 the United States had exported 24,000,000 bushels of wheat and Canada 40,000,000 bushels.

"In addition to that," he continued, "there has been a much greater exportation of corn and rye. That's what pulled the price from under my well engineered plan to put up wheat prices. They simply wouldn't buy my wheat and eat it. They ate something else."

Mr. Leiter again insisted speculation does not raise the price of wheat. "The present very high prices are caused by people who actually have wheat on hand that isn't contracted for, holding on to it to get the last cent for it."

"The farmers?" "Yes, the farmers. There isn't anybody else left in the market. The speculators stayed in until wheat reached \$1.35 or \$1.40. Big margins drove out the small dealers and the big men did not dare to go short. Speculation hasn't anything to do with the present high price of wheat. In fact, if it hadn't been for the speculators the rise would have come sooner."

"Do you think the present low price of potatoes will affect the price of flour?" "No, not in this country. It would abroad, perhaps. Money stringency kept the farmer from selling."

"The farmer would rather have the wheat in his bin than money in the bank. He doesn't want the wheat, but he can't tell what might happen to the world."

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LADY'S WIDOW PAID \$15,000 BY GERMAN SECRET SERVICE

(Continued from First Page.)

he went to England, ostensibly on the mission to spy out the location of the British dreadnought fleet. Lady was promised that in the event of his death his widow, then living in New York, would receive either an annuity of \$150 a month for life or a flat sum of \$15,000.

Lady went to England on this agreement, but he did not know that he was merely the "target" and that the "herr von" or "follow-up man" was to follow him a short time later and do the real work.

Stegler charges that the German Intelligence Bureau actually contrived to pass the tip to the British Government that Lady was an spy so that the activities of the British secret service men would be centered on watching and apprehending Lady while the real information gatherer who followed him from New York would go about his task of discovering the whereabouts of the dreadnought fleet, unhampered by espionage.

Lady played his unconscious part, was caught and executed in the Tower. Then in New York German agents had Mrs. Lady write, "Paid in full" on the back of a \$15,000 check. Subsequently she moved to Omaha, where she now is, according to Stegler. The "follow-up man" gleaned information which resulted in the sinking of the Audacious by a German submarine, Stegler adds.

SAYS VON HORN WAS MERELY THE "TARGET." When Von Horn went to Vancoboro, Me., Stegler says in his confession, he went as the "target" and another man followed to do the actual work of dy-

SAILING TO-DAY. Manassas, Santiago..... 12 M. Apache, Jacksonville..... 1 P. M. Dunstan, Para..... 2 P. M. Jefferson, Norfolk..... 3 P. M.

Mary Ryan appearing in "On Trial" wearing a London Feather Hat \$5 to \$10

AUERBACH'S Chocolate Roasted Peanut Bar

PENNY A POUND PROFIT. A Real Banquet of Prime Week-End Specials.

Special for Friday, Feb. 26th. VAN. CRANED FILBERTS—Five more, each in a paper bag, 10c.

Special for Saturday, Feb. 27th. CHOCOLATE COVERED PEANUTS—The center of these are covered with fragrant hazelnut, enveloped in our delicious chocolate. FOUND BOX 10c.

White Rose CEYLON TEA. White Rose Coffee, Only 25c a Pound.