

Allied Destroyers Sink Four German Warships

WEATHER—Probably Showers To-night; Friday Fair.

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50 MILES OF BRITISH FRONT BOMBARDED; HAIG'S LINE PIERCED AT SEVERAL POINTS

TWO GERMAN DESTROYERS AND TWO TORPEDO BOATS SENT DOWN OFF DUNKIRK

Only One of Five British and French Vessels Engaged Is Damaged.

CASUALTIES ARE SLIGHT.

Survivors of Two of the Enemy Torpedo Boats Picked Up.

LONDON, March 21.—Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats have been sunk by a force of five British and French destroyers, the Admiralty announces. One British destroyer was damaged.

The engagement occurred off Dunkirk this morning. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties.

The announcement follows: "Vice Admiral Douer reports that an action occurred off Dunkirk between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning. Two British and three French destroyers were engaged with a force of German destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk for ten minutes. Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats were believed to have been sunk. Survivors have been picked up from two enemy torpedo boats.

No Allied vessels were sunk. One British destroyer was damaged but reached harbor. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties.

Dunkirk is on the French coast about 20 miles west of the point where the west front lines touch the North Sea and about 20 miles west of Ostend, the German naval base in Belgium.

U. S. PLANES IN AUGUST TO BE DOUBLE THOSE OF TWO ALLIES AND KAISER

Aviation Officials, While Admitting Programme Is Behind, Declare Tremendous Work Done.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The United States, by the last of August, will have completed more than double the number of battle planes now in use in Germany, England and France, aviation officials declared today.

While admitting that the airplane programme is two months behind the original schedule, and contending that the United States plans have been over-advertised, the officials suggested that a vast work had been done.

There will be no 10,000 planes this year and the figure by late August will not run up to 50,000 or even 20,000 planes. But it will be, according to production reports, so vast a number as to give the Allies superiority in the air. Training planes are now going into storage. They are smaller and lighter than the combat and bombing planes and easier of production.

Battle planes are being built bigger and faster than originally planned. The Liberty Motor, originally planned to develop 350 horse power, has been altered to develop 400 normally and 450 under pressure.

HOLLAND IS THREATENED WITH U BOAT BLOCKADE FOLLOWING SHIP SEIZURE

Semi-Official Advice From Berlin Declare Netherlands Must "Bear All Consequences."

ZURICH, March 21.—Holland must expect that submarines will blockade all her ports as a result of the taking over of Dutch ships by the Allies and America, it was semi-officially stated in Berlin today.

The Netherlands must be compelled to bear all the consequences of her decision, the Berlin advice said.

THE HAGUE, March 21.—Premier London, speaking in the Chamber in reply to criticisms of the Government in connection with the shipping situation, today characterized America's policy as "all but benevolent."

BLOCKING HYLAN NO CRIME; LACK OF RED LIGHT IS

Autoist Explains Snail's Pace Before Hizonner, but Draws \$3 Fine.

Metz Abramowitz, of No. 324 Hoehling Street, Brooklyn, explained to Magistrate House in the Traffic Court today that had he known he was delaying Mayor Hylan while driving his automobile over the Williamsburg Bridge last evening he would have speeded his machine a trifle. But as he had never seen anything more lifelike of His Honor than a campaign lithograph, he felt he could not be blamed for holding up the Hylan family supper.

This explanation sounded logical enough to the Magistrate, but Abramowitz could not account for the fact that the lamp on the rear end of his machine failed to flash a warning in red. For this neglect he was fined \$3, which he paid.

The fining of Abramowitz came about in this fashion. Last night he was operating his automobile over the Williamsburg Bridge and immediately behind him was Mayor Hylan in his auto. When the latter reached the spot where Traffic Policeman Michael J. Kelly was standing he summoned the officer to the side of his car.

"That man ahead is delaying me," said the Mayor. "He is traveling at a snail's pace."

"Well, Your Honor," replied Abramowitz, "I can't see a summons on him because I didn't see him during the snail pace stunt, but I can serve him because his rear light is out."

"Do that," said the Mayor, and Kelly did. Abramowitz made much better time during the balance of the trip across the bridge, but the absence of that rear light settled his chances when he appeared in court.

77 DUTCH SHIPS, SEIZED BY U. S., IN SERVICE SOON

Vessels to Be Armed and Used as Food Carriers and as Transports.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The 600,000 tons of Dutch shipping seized in American ports last night under a proclamation from President Wilson will be put into service, it was said today, as soon as they can be made ready for sea and cargoes are loaded. The vessels will be armed by the Navy Department. Seventy-seven were taken over following Holland's refusal, in the face of German threats to put into effect her voluntary agreement for restoring her merchant marine to normal activity.

Most of the vessels will go into the transatlantic service transporting food to the Allies. Some, unfitted for cargo work, may be used as transports.

Reports to the Navy Department, Secretary Daniels said today, showed that the taking over of the ships proceeded according to schedule.

As soon as the official order was received from the White House a previously prepared telegram was flashed to the commanding officers of Naval Reserve forces gathered in readiness near the wharves where the ships were moored. The officer assigned to each boat boarded her, notified the commander that he had taken charge and hoisted the Stars and Stripes.

The Navy Department will remain in control of all the ships until their final allotment has been decided. This decision will be made at conferences between representatives of the Shipping Board, the Navy Department and the Ship Control Board, headed by P. A. B. Franklin. The tank ships are expected to be added to the naval supply ships for use in carrying fuel to the oil-burning vessels of the navy.

Although no damage has been done to the ships by their crews, as in the case of the German craft, naval engineers doubtless will be called upon to inspect each of the vessels to determine whether drydocking will be necessary to repair the effects of the long wait many of them had in American harbors.

The Navy Department is unable to provide complete crews for the ships, it was stated today, but a nucleus for the engine room and deck forces is ready for each vessel. Additions to the crews will be made as rapidly as possible. Civilian crews will be put aboard those of the ships which are not to be sent into the war zone.

A copy of the President's proclamation was sent to The Hague last night, it was announced today at the State Department.

Dutch sailors aboard the ships seized will be examined carefully by customs officers before they are allowed to depart from the country. Instructions have been issued to customs inspectors at all ports where Dutch ships are located to visa the seamen's certificates of the Dutch sailors with a view to detecting any fraudulent certificates or passports.

COMMAND OF DUTCH SHIPS RELINQUISHED BY SKIPPER UNDER FORMAL PROTEST

AN ATLANTIC PORT, March 21.—Commanders of Dutch ships seized here today are understood to have relinquished their commands under protest recorded in the ship's logs.

While officials of the Holland-America Line said not received word at noon from the various Dutch captains that the formalities of the seizure had been completed, the line's officials said they had received word from the various Dutch captains that the formalities of the seizure had been completed.

THE LANSING, March 21.—A large sailing vessel equipped with a gasoline motor has run aground near the Rigger. The crew was rescued by a Brazilian destroyer.

U. S. DESTROYER COLLIDES WITH BRITISH WARSHIP; FOUR AMERICANS KILLED

Two New Yorkers Victims of Explosion After Crash in War Zone—11 Wounded.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Explosion of a depth charge aboard the American destroyer Manley, when the vessel collided with a British warship in European waters on March 19, killed the American commander and three enlisted men and wounded eleven others. Both ships were damaged.

In announcing the accident today the Navy Department gave no further details and withheld location.

THE DEAD. Lieut. Commander Richard McCall Elliott Jr., No. 251 Park Avenue, New York City.

Cecil Hall, Charleston, W. Va. Lewis Cohen, boatman's mate, No. 12 Ruiters Place, New York City.

Charles Magoni, water tender, West Springfield, Mass. SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Edward Chester Landwehr, electrician, No. 26 Spencer Street, Elizabeth, N. J.

Charles Pierce, engine man, Lake Crystal, Minn.

Fred Richard Lawson, engine man, Orange, Mass.

Clarence F. De Chenne, fireman, Joplin, Mo.

Carl Cecil Russel, seaman, Stockton, Cal.

Richard S. Gallman, seaman, second class, Troth, S. C.

Albert Wallace Cecil, fireman, first class, St. Louis.

The following are listed as slightly injured: Ralph H. Christie, yeoman, Calais, Me.; John D. Mercer, fireman, Varnado, La.; Edward Henry Peters, seaman, No. 48 Lawrence Street, New Haven, Conn.; John F. Gunn, fireman, first class, South Minneapolis, Minn.

Lieut. Commander Elliott was born in Philadelphia April 12, 1885. He entered the naval service under appointment to Annapolis from the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Aug. 17, 1905. He was appointed an ensign June 5, 1911, promoted to Lieutenant, junior grade, June 5, 1915, promoted to Lieutenant, June 5, 1917, and temporarily appointed a Lieutenant Commander Feb. 1, 1918, while serving on the Manley. His wife is in New York City now.

Lieut. Commander Elliott formerly lived in Philadelphia, but came to New York about a year ago, after marrying Miss Jean Packard of No. 281 Park Avenue, daughter of John Hooker Packard of the London Assurance Association, No. 54 William Street.

Since the marriage, because her husband's duties have kept him at sea, Mrs. Elliott has continued to live at her parents' home, and it was there that she received today the Navy Department telegram telling of her husband's death. The shock of the news resulted in her sudden illness and she is in the care of a physician.

Her marriage took place in February, 1917, at Philadelphia at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

PRINCE TONNAY-CHARENTE, FRENCH AVIATOR, MISSING

PARIS, Wednesday, March 20.—(Special.) Lieut. Prince de Tonnay-Charente, one of the most promising young French aviators, is missing.

He has brought down seven German machines.

CLOSE-UP FIGHT AGAINST GERMANS BY U. S. SOLDIERS

Pierce the Line for Some Distance in the Luneville Sector.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Wednesday, March 20 (Associated Press).—American troops in the sector east of Luneville participated to-night in a raid on German trenches, penetrating the enemy lines for some distance. Hand-to-hand fighting ensued.

The raiders returned to the American lines after about forty minutes.

The raid was carried out in conjunction with French troops after a brief but intense barrage. The Germans retaliated with a heavy fire of gas and high explosive shells on the American batteries.

At another point near the front Secretary Baker reviewed a brigade of American troops. It was the first time in history that a United States Secretary of War reviewed American troops on foreign soil.

Addressing the First Division of Regulars who had been in the front lines, Baker said:

"If I have any advice to give you, it's 'strike hard and shoot straight!'"

Secretary Baker, Gen. Pershing and the staff generals stood on the brow of a great plateau and saw the remnants of the first division, fresh from the trenches, march past.

The reviewing field was heavy with mud, and motor cars were unable to surmount the plateau. Baker, Pershing and the others trudged a muddy uphill mile.

The troops were drawn up waiting. The parade of the first American division.

(Continued on Second Page)

ARE YOU BEN DOWN? Dewey's Ben-Down is Blood Builder, Fort-Wing, Olive Oil and Iron. 128 Fulton St., N. Y. Largest Retail Dispensary.

BABIES THRIVE WELL ON Foster's Food. Foster's Food is a complete food for babies.

GEN. WOOD BACK, TAKEN 'PRISONER' AT PIER!—BY WIFE

"All Right There," He Says, Pointing to Wounded Arm—Gen. Bell Returns Also.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, March 21.—Major Gen. Leonard Wood, six months on the battle line in France and saved from death by a miracle in January when a trench mortar explosion killed eleven French officers by his side, arrived here on a French liner to-day.

With him was Major Gen. Franklin Bell, commandant at Camp Upton, who, like Gen. Wood, has been studying actual conditions of the warfare that American troops are now getting into. What these two bronzed and keen-eyed warriors have seen; what their experiences were under shell fire and gas attack and in the tortuous snake lines of trenches would fill many newspaper columns.

But, true to the discipline of their profession, both generals smilingly declined to give their stories to the reporters.

"We have to report to the War Department in Washington," said Gen. Wood. "All we have seen and learned is for the private ears of the department and the general staff."

Gen. Wood's answer to queries concerning the injury he received in his left arm at the time of the trench mortar explosion was prompt and succinct:

"Everything all right. No trouble there. Quite a spell in the hospital. Mighty lucky to get away with such a minor injury."

Both the Generals were taken prisoner by their wives before ever a passenger was permitted ashore. When the big steamer was warping into her dock Mrs. Wood, at the pier's end, was wig-wagging a greeting to her husband on the upper deck. His signals in return were interrupted by a delegation of French officers aboard, headed by the veteran Gen. Boucher, who came to make their adieux and wish both American army officers good luck.

When urged for a bit of news concerning the boys "over there" which would foot come under the restrictions of orders for silence, Gen. Wood said:

"Well, you can say I left them all feeling top notch, in the pink of condition and tremendously interested in their work."

The fact that a few days ago his son Otto had enlisted as a private in the Regular Army and reported for duty at Fort Stocum on Saturday surprised Gen. Wood when the reporters decided it.

"The General did not know about that," Mrs. Wood quickly interposed. "That is a family matter which I was reserving for him upon his return."

Among the 150 cabin passengers was an American girl, Miss Blanche Soudin of Chicago, who possesses the distinction of being the last American to leave Berlin. She was released through the intervention of the American Consul at Zurich, Switzerland, in January, after being previously a prisoner since the United States entered the war.

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AUSTRIANS AID GERMANS IN ATTACKING WEST FRONT; FRENCH ALSO UNDER FIRE

Bombardment Which Shakes British Cities 100 Miles Away Precedes Rushes of Enemy's Infantry—May Be Start of Great Offensive.

BERLIN, via London, March 21.—Artillery fire has been renewed in full force on broad sectors of the west front, the German War Office reported today. Austro-Hungarian forces are participating.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, March 21 (United Press).—The enemy is reported advancing at several points between the Scarpe River and St. Quentin. Its infantry has penetrated the British front line at points north of Lampicourt and Louveral.

It was reported the Germans were advancing to the St. Quentin Ridge, on the edge of the Cambrai salient, and also through the Gauche Wood, in the same sector, and through the brick fields near Croisille-sur-Villers.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 21 (Associated Press).—A heavy bombardment by the enemy on the front from a short distance below the Scarpe River to the British right flank, from east of Arras to Vendeuil, in the region of La Fere, was begun at 5 o'clock this morning.

At the same hour the Germans began a display of artillery activity in the Messines sector. At 4 o'clock they began a bombardment with gas shells along the Pleurbais-Armontieres sector.

It may be merely coincidence that a German prisoner stated recently that an enemy offensive was to begin March 20 or 21. Numerous other dates also have been given. No infantry action had been reported at the time of filing this despatch.

For several days it has been indicated that the Germans have completed all their plans and are ready to begin operations. If this be within the scope of their programme, the sky was heavily overcast this morning. Observation from airplanes was extremely difficult.

DECISIVE MOMENT OF WAR, THE KAISER ANNOUNCES IN TELEGRAM TO COUNCIL

Greatest in German History, He Tells People of the Rhine Section.

LONDON, March 21.—"We are at the decisive moment of the war, and one of the greatest moments in German history," said Emperor William in a telegram to the Rhenish Provincial Council, according to a Central News despatch from Amsterdam.

FRENCH HOLD LINES UNDER SHARP ATTACK

Violent Hand-to-Hand Fighting Near Verdun—French Win in Lorraine.

PARIS, March 21.—The War Office announces that between Courcieres Wood and Bezonvaux, on the Verdun front, the Germans were driven back in violent hand-to-hand fighting.

In Lorraine the Germans suffered a complete defeat in the region of Nomeny, sustaining heavy losses without attaining any success.

Berlin Claims Capture of 240 Men at Verdun

BERLIN, March 21 (via London).—Bavarian troops overran the first enemy line southwest of Goron on the Verdun front yesterday and advanced as far as the Belle Havine, capturing 240 men. Army headquarters announced today.

VIENNA, March 21 (British Admiralty).—Wireless news—Austro-Hungarian artillery has taken part in the fight against the English and French on the western front. It is announced in today's War Office statement.

Italian Troops Pierce Enemy Line Along the Nile

ROME, March 21.—Italian troops penetrated the enemy positions along the Nile several days, inflicting casualties and capturing prisoners and war materials, the War Office reported.

At Ramsgate, besides the sound of the cannoning, bright flashes were seen at sea, while the vibrations of the explosions shook the windows and dislodged tile from the roofs. The firing, which was the heaviest that has been heard in this district from such a distance, began at 2 o'clock this morning and lasted at brief intervals until 7 A. M.

(From Vendeuil north to the River Scarpe is a distance of nearly 150 miles, and the beginning by the German artillery of a heavy bombardment along this wide front may mean that preparation