THINK NEW MINES HAVE SUNK SHIPS

British Believe Maloja and Other Vessels Victims of Fresh Sowing.

P. & O. LINER DEATH LIST REACHES 155

Italian Hospital Ship and Two Other Steamers Sent to the Bottom During Day.

London, Feb. 28.—The owners of the Peninsular & Oriental Line steamer Maloja, which struck a mine and sank off Dover on Sunday, announced to-night that the total number of persons saved in the disaster was 301. Of these 22 were passengers, 92 members of the European crew and 137 of the Lascar crew. The missing comprise 49 passengers, 20 members of the European crew and 86 Lascars.

The British press is almost unanimous in assuming that the Maloja and the other vessels sunk by mines during the week-end were victims of a fresh sowing of German mines. There is much speculation as to how these mines could have been laid. The theory most frequently advanced is that a certain class of neutral shipping was employed.

"The Pall Mall Gazette" suggests that such operations may drive England to still more stringent supervision of neutral shipping than has yet been exercised by the Admiralty.

Many persons are arriving at Dover for the purpose of identifying bodies. Among those rescued yesterday was a baby, warmly clad, which was found floating on its back. The child was discovered by a patrol boat and was taken into the engine room. After being warmed it smiled at its rescuers and seemed none the worse for the immersion.

Three More Ships Sunk.

Three more ships were sunk to-day, with a known loss of life of nine persons and a probable loss of many more. Only one, the Italian hospital ship Marechiaro, is reported to have struck a mine. The Marechiaro, which was of 312 tons, went down near San Giovanni di Medua, Albania, the victim of an Austrian mine, according to a dispatch from Rome to the Exchange Telegraph Company, which adds that many persons were lost.

The Russian steamship Petshenga, of 1,647 tons, was sunk, with the loss of seven of the crew. The Petshenga was formerly the German steamship Erik Larsen, which was captured by the Russians early in the war.

Two of the crew were lost in the sinking of the British steamer Southford, formerly the Sindbad, according to Lloyd's. The Southford was of 897 tons.

The bodies of eight sailors and the captain of the Wilson liner Dido, which was sunk on Saturday, were washed ashore to-day at Donna Hook, Lincolnshire. The Dido carried a crew of twenty-nine men.

Insurance Rates Go Up.

The heavy losses in shipping during the week-end, from floating mines or other causes, have resulted in a stiffening of insurance rates. Underwriters last week quoted rates on shipping to the Continent which were almost prohibitive. To-day's figures for east coast traffic show an increase from 10 shillings to 20 shillings per cent.

Insurance for Mediterranean and other voyages has not changed greatly, although there is more hesitation than heretofore in accepting risks. This probably is due to the fear of fresh submarine activity beginning March 1, when the German and Austrian decrees concerning the treatment of armed merchantmen as warships takes effect.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 28.—Ralph Foster, son of the Rev. Festus Foster, of this city, a passenger aboard the steamship Maloja, cabled his parents to-day that he had been rescued and was unhurt.

Foster is a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, but had been given a year's leave of absence to enter army Y. M. C. A. work. He was en route for Egypt to join Y. M. C. A. workers in the army there.

Milwaukee, Feb. 28.—Charles Duncan Forbes, first officer of the Peninsular & Oriental liner Maloja, has cabled his sister, Mrs. Charles L. Kissing, of this city, that he is among the saved.

BIG GUNS ACTIVE ON ISONZO FRONT

Austrians Tell of Surprise Attack on Sleeping Enemy.

Vienna, Feb. 28.—To-day's official report from Austrian headquarters says:

"On the Isonzo front there have been lively artillery fire and occasional unimportant infantry engagements. At dawn an Austro-Hungarian detachment from the Gorizia bridgehead garrison attacked by surprise the sleeping enemy near Pauma, filled in their trench and brought back forty-five prisoners.

"After a heavy artillery preparation the enemy infantry advanced against our positions on both sides of Monte San Michele and east of Azzo. The Italians were repulsed with sanguinary losses, besides leaving in our hands 127 prisoners, among whom were six officers."

BRITISH FORCES ROUT TURKS ALONG TIGRIS

Damage Moslem Camp and Put Foe to Flight.

London, Feb. 28.—The following official communication concerning the operations of the British in Mesopotamia was made public this evening:

"On the morning of the 22d General Aylmer bombarded the enemy's camp on the left bank of the Tigris to make him disclose his dispositions and at the same time to inflict the maximum amount of damage. The enemy, taken by surprise, lost heavily, and useful information was obtained by our aeroplanes.

"A small, punitive column from Nasiriyeh moved out against a hostile concentration four miles north of that place. The enemy fled after suffering severely. Our casualties were nil.

"General Aylmer continued his operations the next day, with the object of securing a forward position on the right bank and to bring a reverse fire on the enemy's position at Hannah. On the 25th two of our aeroplanes flew from Basra to General Aylmer's force.

"The river is rising and a flood may be expected in a few days.

"A second disturbance between Turkish troops and the populace at Najf is reported. A telegram dated the 26th says an effective bombardment of the enemy's camp at Hannah is being carried out."

RUSSIAN TROOP DIVISION ON WAY TO MESOPOTAMIA

Peking, Feb. 28.—Reuter's correspondent at Harbin, Manchuria, reports that a division of Russian troops is on the way to the Manchurian port of Dalay to embark there on Japanese steamships for Mesopotamia.

AUSTRIANS CAPTURE 23 GUNS WITH DURAZZO

Also Take 10,000 Rifles, Munitions and Provisions, Is Report.

Berlin, Feb. 28 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—The official Austrian statement yesterday says that by the capture of the Albanian port of Durazzo the Austrians took twenty-three cannon, including six coast defence guns; 10,000 rifles and a large amount of artillery, ammunitions and provisions.

The flight of the Italians from Durazzo, the report says, was carried out hastily, in great disorder.

The text of the official statement follows:

"Austro-Hungarian troops have occupied Durazzo. During the forenoon one column, under the fire of the Italians, advanced across the northern isthmus to Portos, six kilometres north of Durazzo. Our troops, advancing across the southern isthmus, were hindered at the beginning by the Italian artillery, but toward night numerous detachments, by wading, swimming and floating, reached the bridge east of Durazzo, driving back the Italian rear guards.

"At dawn an Austro-Hungarian battalion entered the burning town."

Rome, Feb. 28.—The evacuation of the port of Durazzo, in Albania, is said by the Italian press to have been in accordance with plans long prepared, as it had served its purpose as a base for rescuing the remainder of the Serbian army. Italian military efforts on that side of the Adriatic will, it is declared, be now directed to the safeguarding of Avlona, a port about eighty miles south of Durazzo, which has a strategic value of the greatest importance.

BROTHER OF ENVER SLAIN BY BRITISH

Turkish War Minister's Kin Killed in West Egypt.

London, Feb. 28.—The fighting in Western Egypt in which South African troops defeated tribesmen commanded by Turkish officers was described in additional advices to the War Office today from Major General Sir John Maxwell, commander of the British forces.

"The fight on Saturday ended in a decisive success for us," the report says. "The enemy were under the personal command of Nuri Bey, brother of Enver Pacha, the Turkish War Minister, with Gasfar as his principal subordinate. They were holding a strong position some fifteen miles southeast of Barni.

"General Peyton reports that the attack by South African infantry, under General Lukin, was completely successful, and that the charge of the Dorsetshire Yeomanry was brilliant and most effective. In this charge, Gasfar was wounded and made prisoner, and Nuri Bey was killed. The enemy left more than two hundred killed or wounded on the ground. In addition to Gasfar, two other Turkish officers were made prisoners. One machine gun was captured."

JACK JOHNSON FORCED OUT OF ENGLAND

Ex-Champion Will Leave for South America.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 28.—The Tribune correspondent has been informed that Jack Johnson is to leave London for South America next Friday. His departure is not an official deportation, but merely the result of an intimation from the Home Office that his presence in England is undesirable. No reason is disclosed, as this is unnecessary under the alien restriction act.

WOOD CALLS GUARD FAILURE

Federalization Only Hope of Keeping Militia at Full Strength.

Major General Leonard A. Wood, in a double barrelled address in the Engineers' Societies Building, 39 West Thirty-ninth Street, last night, classed the United States as second only to China among the nations in its unpreparedness for war.

Criticising the national guard, he said:

"The militia of this country never has been a success, and as constituted never will be. It has been passively fighting labor organizations during strikes, and union men cannot be recruited. In war time it would be better to wait for volunteers to be recruited than to attempt to transfer the national guard to the volunteer force.

"Once the government takes over the militia and it becomes a Federal organization there will be no trouble to keep up a full complement."

Two thousand engineers heard General Wood's address, some at an overflow meeting. Captain Thomas M. Robins, U. S. A., spoke on "Field Fortifications, Sieges and Demolitions," taking the European war as his text.

A Five Cent Breakfast in five minutes! What a boon to the busy housekeeper! Two Shredded Wheat Biscuits, heated in the oven to restore crispness and served with hot milk, make a complete, perfect meal, supplying all the strength needed for a half day's work at a cost of four or five cents. The richest man in America can buy nothing better. Contains more real nutriment than meat or eggs and is more easily digested. Made at Niagara Falls, N. Y.

SENATE RATIFIES HAYTIAN TREATY

Island Republic Made American Protectorate by Convention.

FINANCES AND POLICE UNDER U. S. CONTROL

Territorial Integrity Guaranteed and Development of Resources To Be Undertaken.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Senate today unanimously ratified the treaty with Hayti under which the United States assumes a protectorate over the turbulent island republic, taking over control of its finances and police, guaranteeing its territorial integrity and undertaking to develop its resources. The treaty already has been approved by the Haytian Congress, and its terms virtually are in operation under the eye of a strong American marine expedition.

This treaty was negotiated last year with the D'Artiguemave government, set up after marines and bluejackets under Rear Admiral Caperton had put down the revolution which overthrew President Vilbrun Guillaume. During the preceding few years Hayti had seen eight presidents deposed and most of them murdered or exiled. Guillaume was dragged from the French Legation and killed. The possibility of European intervention to protect foreign lives and property and insure the payment of foreign loans was being discussed when the American forces took charge of affairs on the island.

U. S. to Control Finances.

The principal articles of the convention provide for American supervision of finances and the collection of customs, American supervision of the payment of the public debt, inquiry into the validity of existing debts and regulation of the contracting of future debts, policing of the republic by a native constabulary, officered for the present by Americans; intervention by the United States, if necessary, to preserve order and for guaranteeing territorial integrity and independence; and development of Haytian resources under American auspices.

It is set forth particularly that the United States shall by its good offices aid the Haytian government in proper and efficient development of its agricultural, mineral and commercial resources and in establishment of the finances of the republic on a solid basis.

When formal ratifications have been exchanged the President of Hayti will appoint, on nomination by the President of the United States, a general receiver and such employes as may be necessary, who shall collect, receive and apply all customs duties on imports and exports accruing at Haytian ports.

ONE OF THE GUNS BATTERING VERDUN.

The 12-inch Skoda howitzer, which was used by the Germans to annihilate the defences of Liège and Namur, is reported to be in use against the Verdun forts in the great Teuton offensive. The photograph shows the mortar elevated to shell a position sixteen miles away.

12-INCH SKODA GUNS BATTERING VERDUN

Continued from page 1

during the European war is playing a similar role in the German assault on Verdun, according to reports that have been received here. The Skoda won its reputation as an annihilator during the siege of Liège and Namur, when from a distance of seven miles it threw shells into the cities often as rapidly as one a minute.

"The feature of these guns," said A. Russell Bond, managing editor of "The Scientific American," yesterday, "is not only the terrific effect of their shell fire, but their mobility. A Skoda mortar can be dismembered and removed to a point of safety before the enemy can reach it. For that reason they can be used as field pieces.

"The effect of their fire on troops marching in close formation is terrible. Many who are not hit by fragments of shells are killed by the intense air pressure and the suffocating gases. This was true not only at Liège and Namur, but at Maubeuge, Givet, Antwerp and Przemysl as well."

FRENCH GUNS MOW DOWN FOE

Continued from page 1

mitrailleuses were unchained on all sides. The German expenditure of ammunition passed all imagination. Never has there been such a bombardment since the beginning of hostilities.

"Our soldier going to repair the wire was enveloped on all sides by explosions. He sheltered himself as best he could in the craters made by the shells. At last he gained the point where the wire was broken and repaired it. Then he sheltered himself in a trench dug by a mitrailleuse and waited for the storm to pass.

"Little by little the German fire relaxed. It was the supreme moment. The smoke and white dust made by earth and snow pulverized by the shells, slowly dissipated. Before our eyes was a frightful spectacle.

"A little distance in front of us there had been some supporting trenches. Nothing remained of them. They had been absolutely levelled. Here there rose vestiges of a parapet, while as to barbed wire entanglements, it was impossible to discover a trace of them.

Black Mass Charges Across Snow.

"All had been cut down or had disappeared under the earth the exploding shells had thrown on them. The earth was as flat as though there never had been such a thing as a cannonade. One could believe himself on ground freshly ploughed and harrowed ready for planting crops.

"Down in the ravine some black masses began to move over the white mantle of snow which there was undisturbed. They were German infantry advancing in close ranks to debouch from the ends of the trough, while others sought to gain the crests by direct assault.

"It is our moment to act. A word through the telephone to our batteries and the dance commences. The vision becomes infernal. Down there, between the two crests and on their slopes, several regiments spread out, but the gaps between them are constantly filled by the arrival of fresh elements.

"We hear a long whistle over our heads. It is our pilot shell. It falls fairly in the midst of the German soldiers. We telephone that the range is good. Then there is a deluge of shells, which burst in the enemy ranks.

"The position of the Germans is critical. With our glasses we can see some of them flying, while others, covered with earth and blood, seek to shelter themselves behind the wall of dead. The first wave is wiped out. There are piles of bodies on all sides.

"But already a new wave appears, which tries to make head against the rain of steel. It cannot advance. It gives ground. Our fire is rectified and our projectiles begin again to cut wide lanes through the German ranks. The region is enveloped in the thunder of bursting shells, with which is mixed the sharp note of a mitrailleuse, firing from the crest the Germans seek to capture.

"Another German wave forms, more formidable and more furious. The Germans, swarming like rats come on despite our shells. Our hearts stand still. Will they succeed? No.

"At this moment our heavy artillery, which has not yet been in action, begins to fire in a manner truly terrifying. The huge shells in exploding throw great jets of flame on all sides.

"The ravine has become a veritable volcano. One cannot tell whether it is stones or men that are thrown into the air. Pieces of the bodies now obstruct the gully and form a barricade before the Germans, who give way and seek safety in flight.

"Their attack, extraordinary as it was in violence and numbers, has failed after terrible losses, and our guns little by little lift their fire to the German batteries in the rear, which have been powerless to silence ours.

Seventy-fives Take Heavy Toll.

A soldier who had been invalided home in the early days of the war described the passage of the Germans through his village of Malancourt. As he spoke his voice carried the ring of absolute confidence.

"They will never take Verdun," he said.

"Well sheltered, I watched the arrival of the boches at my village. They came in solid ranks, without word, loading and reloading their rifles without cessation. Our seventy-fives fell among them and then the mitrailleuses entered into action. It was no longer a battalion. It was a few scattered groups of men that one saw torn by a rain of shells and bullets, squeezing close against each other as though for mutual protection.

"On the border of Montfaucon I saw one of these groups disappear at one blow, as though they had been swallowed in a marsh. Our shells! What frightful work they did! Never will I forget those fragments of human beings that fell just at my feet! Never can I forget that terrible picture.

"I followed the boche attack on Haumont and Samcogneux. The field of battle was lighted as though in full day by star shells. Black masses of Germans advanced, protected by their artillery, while ours remained silent. I imagined our men had been ordered to fall back. But finally our artillery began, and then the enemy ranks wavered, halted and disappeared.

"Our guns had waited until the Germans were in a little hollow, all arranged for the massacre. What a butchery the Crown Prince had organized! In a little hollow, five hundred yards by fifty, there were the bodies of some two or three thousand German soldiers, who will never again see their Deutschland.

"No, the Germans will never have our Verdun. They will break their teeth there. Some houses will be destroyed. That will end the fine affair. We, who know how to give our sons, shall we weep for a few fallen walls? No. The thing for us to do is to make the beast pay dear for these wanton destructions."

Another refugee brought to Paris the first story of the bombardment of the city of Verdun. Once before the Germans shelled the city, just to show they could, and for months they have been able to do so with the guns that had been brought up to the Crown Prince's army.

"Yes," he said, when questioned, "I come from Verdun. Everything left of my property I have in my bag."

He smiled a little.

"But that doesn't matter. The great thing is that though the Germans may shell the city, they can never take it.

"The bombardment was a surprise for us in Verdun. We were so confident that those who had left the city at the time of the first bombardment had come back and business took its normal course. So we felt veritable astonishment when the first shells fell.

"Sunday was quiet again, but Monday we had to accept it that it was a serious affair. Do not imagine, however, that the streets were deserted. There were some men, chiefly old ones, who were desperately attached to the roofs which had sheltered them all their lives. They were always full of indomitable hope. Why should we go? they would say. They remained as deaf to the official commands as to the prayers of friends.

"The military authorities worked ceaselessly that there should be food and shelter for all. Women and children were first thought of. There was no more of caste; no rich, no poor, no distinction of age even. Women of aristocracy carried the modest packages of the very poor in arms already charged with babies. It was a veritable levelling of all. What a school is war! Wednesday night, by little groups, we left what had been Verdun."

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STARVING GREEK WOMEN ASK AID

Plead with Deputies to Relieve Distress.

Athens, Feb. 28.—Barefoot and ragged women in large numbers, many with babies in arms, proceeded from the quarters of the working classes yesterday to Parliament, stopped incoming Deputies and pleaded that the Chamber relieve the distress caused by mobilization of the men and non-payment of allowances to their families. There was no disorder. Several of the Deputies, moved by the pitiful demonstration, addressed the women, promising relief.

Attempts are being made in Parliament to discredit the administration of ex-Premier Venizelos. The acceptance by Venizelos of the candidacy for a seat in the Chamber from Mytilene gives added significance to these attempts. His election is virtually assured.

Harper's Weekly Proposes

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