The Great War---1116th Day

Verdun region ended at 4:40 o'clock this morning. Our troops assaulted between Avocourt Wood and Bezonvaux. By 6 o'clock our first objective had been attained and German prisoners were going to the rear.

"No adjectives can give an idea of the infernal action of the artillery, which lasted three days. Hill 304, Dead Man Hill and Talou Ridge were ploughed up completely by our fire. The enemy was obliged to abandon his first line, but our attacking columns, with undiminished spirit, passed from trench to trench, reducing all living combatants to submission.

"Our aviators signalled our advance. It was tragic and overwhelming."

Throughout the attack French fliers fulfilled the function of mounted infantry, sweeping low over the trenches, spraying the enemy with machine gun bullets, bombing his reserves and meeting the hostile counter thrusts with bursts of gunfire. German aviators also entered the battle recklessly, and eleven of them went down in air fights, two more being brought down in flames by special guns.

Soldiers' Spirit

"Beyond All Praise"

The intrepid French foot soldiers executed the attack with their usual dash, and Paris officially pronounces their spirit "beyond all praise." As soon as they had won their objectives they settled down to receive the inevitable counter attacks, which came immediately, the Germans smashing with special vigor against Avocourt Wood, Dead Man Hill and Hill 304, but without accomplishing anything. The hostile reactions were not so violent on the right bank of the river and the French were able to make further progress in the Bois de Fusse and the Bois de Chaune.

Elsewhere on the West front the fighting seemed almost to pause pending the outcome of the battle of Verdun. However, there were minor sallies by the French in the Champagne and along the Chemin-des-Dames and by the British around Lens, where the Canadians have the coal centre practically surrounded except on the east, where their guns have the range and are practically preventing enemy movements to or from the town.

Two German counter attacks on the new British positions south of Ephy, on the Somme front, were driven back. While the artillery duel in Flanders has lessened somewhat, it keeps up around Lens, and the Allied airmen are busy bombing and taking observations for the next attack. Seven German 'planes were accounted for by the British, who lost six. Berlin states that the Allies lost sixteen 'planes and four captive balloons yesterday. Practically all the air fighting is within the German lines.

Tanks Bewilder Fleeing Germans

Enemy Surrenders Abjectly as Monsters Roll Out in Morning Dusk

[By The Associated Press]

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Aug. 20.—British tanks scored another triumph in the capture of important German positions yesterday morning in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Poelcapelle road, north of St. Julien. It was a tank show almost from start to finish, and the infantry in this case played the part of supernumeraries in support of the leading actors, while large numbers of the enemy troops added a final melodramatic touch by surrendering abjectly or fleeing in terror as the heavy machines lumbered onto the stage and "reached for their shooting irons."

As recorded in the official communication, the British captured German defences along a mile front to a depth of 500 yards. Among the strongholds occupied were the famous Triangle, Hibau and Cockcroft farms, the sites of exceedingly strong concrete and steel machine gun redoubts which menaced the infantry advance.

It was dawn when the tanks lined up and waited for the signal to "go over the top." The British artillery, rendering no less aid to the tanks than to the infantry in the past, poured a preliminary stream of shells into the German lines, then dropped a barrage ahead of the iron monitors, which started forward, looking for all the world like great dragons which had rolled out from one of Hans Andersen's conceptions into the gray morning light that shrouded this battlefield in the "cockpit of Europe."

Behind them came the infantry, ready to clean up the remaining enemy after the tanks had finished their part. But there was little for the infantry to do except assemble and care for the prisoners as the tanks progressed. There was hard fighting at several positions, such as the three redoubts mentioned, but it was always brief. The tanks wheeled into position and turned a heavy fire on the fortifications, and the Germans were either killed or surrendered. The German casualties were heavy. Great numbers of Germans were seen fleeing terror-stricken as the tanks appeared in the distance, and a considerable number threw down their arms and surrendered without offering resistance.

Wants Chinese at Front

PEKING, Aug. 17 (delayed).—General Chang Chn Yam, commanding troops sent to suppress General Changhsun's forces in Anh-wei Province, telegraphed President Feng Kwo Chang, urging the immediate sending of his force of 30,000 to Europe to fight the Germans.

Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, American Minister to China, and the Ministers of the Entente, have agreed upon a common note, to be sent individually to the Foreign Office, congratulating China on i's declaration of war. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, visited Wang Ta Hsieh, Foreign Minister, and assured him that the declaration of war strengthened the friendship between Japan and China.

China has instituted a cable and mail censorship.

Canadian Minister Quits

Rogers Resigns Because Draft Bill Is Not Enforced

OTTAWA, Aug. 20.—Robert Rogers, Canadian Minister of Public Works, to-day tendered his resignation. He gave as his reason that there had been too much delay in carrying out the conscription bill.

The bill has been passed by the House of Commons, but has not yet been enforced by the government.

Allies to Confer on Reply To Pope, Cecil Announces

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade and Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that the Entente Allied governments would hold a conference before a reply to the Pope's peace proposals would be sent to the Vatican.

French, Singing, Win 14-Mile Line In Verdun Attack

German Trenches Pounded to Pulp by Guns Before Advance at Dawn

"Mustard" Gas Faced

All Objectives Taken and Many of Crown Prince's Divisions Shattered

[By The Associated Press]

GRAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Aug. 20.—When prisoners came back in hundreds shortly after dawn this morning the observers knew that the sharp blow decided on by the French higher command to give more breathing space at Verdun had been successful.

After the artillery had pounded the German positions stretching along a front of fourteen miles from south of Bethincourt to Bezonvaux until they must have been like pulp, the infantry advanced as the first streak of dawn lighted the sky and occupied all the positions they had set out to conquer, at the same time sweeping into their net many prisoners of several divisions of the German Crown Prince's army.

The French soldiers showed once more that they were not yet bled white. When the order was given for them to go over the top in the face of hundreds of batteries of heavy and light artillery and thousands of machine guns, they advanced singing, and nothing could stay their dash. They were handled in such a way by their officers that they escaped through the most dangerous part of the ground they had to negotiate with almost negligible losses, reaching the German positions before the German barrage fire.

Artillery Fire Intense

The correspondent passed the night on the battle field in the vicinity of the thickest artillery fire, and can testify to its intensity. During two famous French victories, on October 24 and December 15, 1916, before Verdun, the correspondent was present on both occasions, and this time reached the conclusion from the fierceness of the fire that the French employed at least an equal number of guns.

The night preceding this battle was fairylike in beauty. There was no moon, but the stars were brilliant and the natural effects enhanced by the constant succession of flashes from bursting shells, while all along both French and German positions flares almost incessantly arose, making the surrounding area brighter than day.

The only disturbing sounds were the terrifying screeches and the whistling of smaller shells and the trainlike roar of larger projectiles, as they tore through the air, while the dull thuds of trench torpedoes reverberated along the ground.

The French troops awaiting the order to advance were not in the slightest dismayed by the difficulties of the task confronting them. They knew that this was unsuitable terrain for attacking forces, but the fullest confidence reigned among them.

Facing them were German divisions which had been massed for resistance to any effort the French might make to extend their circle of territory around Verdun, which the Germans call the door to the heart of France. The confidence of the French proved justified, for they not only pushed the German intruders back as far as they intended, but took many prisoners from chosen German regiments.

Germans Fire 15-Inch Shells

All through the night the German artillery had poured thousands of shells of every calibre into the roads and communicating trenches leading to the front. They introduced a novelty in the shape of 15-inch shells containing enormous shrapnel bullets which burst overhead, scattering pieces far and wide, but the disposition of the French troops was so cleverly contrived that they suffered little.

Verdun itself received hundreds of Shels, which simply added to the destruction in the city. All the ground within eight miles of the front lines was strewn repeatedly with shells containing a horrible new German gas known as "mustard gas," affectng the mucous membranes and any porton of the body which was exposed, causing terrible blisters, as its base was sulphuric acid, and bringing a sow and painfu death if it entered the ungs.

The aviators were busy as soon as the light permitted, and the correspondent saw two Germans shot down by gunfire, while Germans who make a specialty of attacking observation balloons twice attempted to destroy these, but were driven off on each occasion.

Information comes from various parts of the line that the French have in several places gone further than was originally intended, and that the prisoners taken number into the thousands.

Wekerle Appointed Premier of Hungary

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 20.—The Wolff Bureau, the semi-official German news agency, in a dispatch from Budapest, announces that Dr. Alexander Wekerle has been appointed Premier of Hungary in succession to Count Moritz Esterhazy.

Dr. Wekerle was Premier and Minister of Fiance in Hungary from April, 1906, to January, 1910. The resignation of the Wekerle Cabinet was due to the breaking up of the coalition party that had supported Wekerle when he endeavored to establish a Hungarian state bank independent of the existing Austrian banking institution.

A dispatch from Amsterdam Sunday said there was a likelihood of the resignation of Count Esterhazy owing to friction between the Premier and Count Karolyi, president of the Hungarian independence party, particularly on the question of foreign policy and the conclusion of peace.

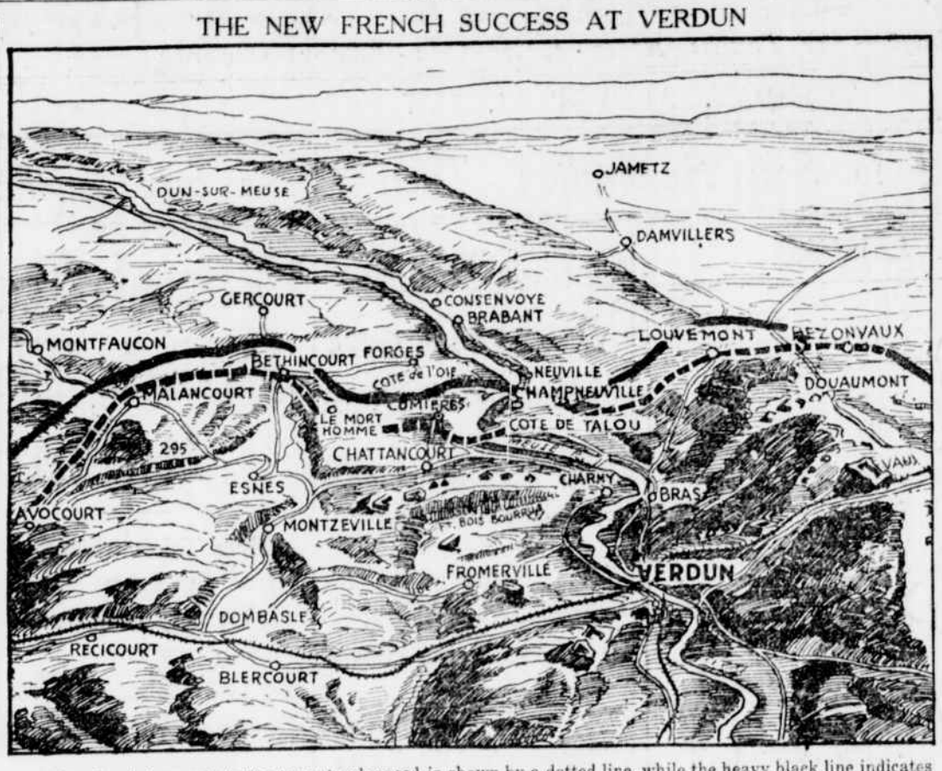
Bulgars Fire Monastir

One-Quarter of Serbian City Ruined by Bombardment

CORFU, Aug. 20.—One-quarter of the Serbian City of Monastir has been destroyed by fire, caused by a Bulgarian bombardment, the Serbian Press Bureau announces. The number of victims has not been ascertained.

The statement says that on Saturday the Bulgarians bombarded the city more violently than ever, firing some 2,000 shells. There was no reason for the bombardment, as no fighting was in progress. The women and children were taken to the rear.

THE NEW FRENCH SUCCESS AT VERDUN



The front from which the French advanced is shown by a dotted line, while the heavy black line indicates the extent of their gains. In capturing the Talou Ridge, in the bend of the River Meuse and assuring its retention by the storming of Dead Man Hill and Hill 304, the French have cut the Germans off from direct observation of Verdun.

Official Statements

West

BRITISH

LONDON, Aug. 20 (NIGHT).—The enemy this morning endeavored to launch another counter attack against our new position north of Epehy. His troops were observed as they were moving into position to assault and were dispersed by our artillery before the attack could develop.

Patrol encounters in which we made some progress took place throughout the day on the northwestern outskirts of Lens. A hostile raiding party entered our lines east of Armentieres. Two of our men are missing.

Yesterday hostile aircraft worked in large formations well behind their own lines and endeavored unsuccessfully to hinder the work of our bombing, photographic and reconnaissance machines. Our bombing operations were continued. An enemy train was wrecked and much damage was caused to hostile airdromes, dumps and stations. The work, in coöperation with our artillery, was carried out with good effect and many photographs were taken.

In air fighting two German airplanes were downed, four others were driven out of control and one other was shot down inside our lines by anti-aircraft guns. Six of our machines are missing.

FRENCH

PARIS, Aug. 20 (DAY).—In Belgium there was violent artillery fighting in the region north of Bixschoote.

In Champagne our batteries effectively bombarded German defences. We made several raids and brought back prisoners from the enemy lines.

On both banks of the Meuse this morning our troops attacked the German positions with magnificent spirit. According to early information, the new battle of Verdun is developing to our advantage on a front of eighteen kilometres, from Avocourt Wood to the region north of Bezonvaux. Numerous prisoners are being taken to the rear. The bravery of our troops is beyond all praise.

In the region of Badonviller we easily repulsed an enemy attack. There was rather spirited artillery fighting in Upper Alsace.

(NIGHT)—On the fronth north of Verdun our troops captured on both sides of the Meuse enemy defences on a front of eighteen kilometres and to a depth which exceeded two kilometres at certain points. On the left bank of the river we hold in particular the Avocourt Wood, the two summits of Le Mort Homme, Corbeaux Wood and Cumieres. On the right bank we have occupied Talou Ridge, Champ, Champneuville, Hill 344, Mormont Farm and Hill 240, north of Louvemont.

On the right our troops have advanced considerably in the Bois des Fusse and the Bois de Chaume.

The number of unwounded prisoners taken is more than 4,000.

The Germans carried out violent counter attacks in the Avocourt Wood and against Le Mort Homme and Hill 304, but our fire everywhere broke down their efforts and inflicted heavy losses. Our aviators took a brilliant part in the battle, turning their machine guns at a low height against enemy concentrations and contributing also to the repulse of counter attacks.

Our pilots brought down eleven German airplanes on the battle front, while two other enemy machines were brought down by our special guns.

GERMAN

BERLIN, Aug. 20 (DAY).—Army Group of Crown Prince Rupprecht—On the battlefield in Flanders, after the failure of English early attacks south of Langemarck, the artillery duel yesterday was considerably less intense than on the preceding days.

In Artois the artillery activity was intense only to the north and west of Lens. English reconnoitring detachments were repeatedly repulsed.

Army Group of German Crown Prince—A battle before Verdun commenced early this morning, with strong French attacks on both banks of the River Meuse, from Avocourt Wood to Caurieres Wood.

The artillery duel continued without interruption and with the greatest intensity throughout the whole of yesterday and last night. This morning a strong drumfire preceded the infantry attack.

The French occupied, without fighting, Talou Ridge, east of the Meuse, which since March of this year had been given up as a line of defence and had been occupied only by outposts. These were withdrawn yesterday, in accordance with our plans and without disturbance from the enemy. At all other places on the wide battle front fighting is in full swing.

(NIGHT.)—The battle before Verdun is going in our favor. On the western bank of the Meuse the enemy only succeeded in penetrating our defensive zone at the Avocourt Wood and on Le Morte Homme. Elsewhere his repeated assaults were everywhere repulsed.

East of the Meuse the enemy was either completely repulsed before our fighting positions or driven back in counter attacks. The reckless bringing up of masses of infantry on a front of more than twenty kilometres against our strong fighting forces cost the French exceedingly heavy losses.

Italian Front

ITALIAN

ROME, Aug. 20.—A battle is proceeding on the Julien Alps front. Yesterday morning, after a bombardment of twenty-four hours, during which our artillery shelled the enemy positions with ever increasing intensity, masses of our infantry commenced the advance toward their objectives. To the north of Anhovo (seven and one-half miles north of Gorizia), after having brilliantly overcome technical difficulties and the resistance of the enemy, numerous pontoons were thrown across the Isonzo, and our troops passed over to the left bank of the river.

From Plava to the sea, after having crossed the first line of the enemy, which had been destroyed completely, our troops brought pressure to bear upon him. Resisting strongly and being supported by considerable artillery and a large number of machine guns, the enemy offered desperate resistance.

Altogether, 208 airplanes indefatigably participated in the battle, attacking repeatedly with bombs and machine guns the troops assembled to the rear of the enemy's positions. The infantry action vigorously continues, while the artillery also is proceeding energetically with its work of destruction.

The enemy's losses are very serious. The booty reported up to the present is very considerable. Some guns and a large number of machine guns are in our hands. Up to last evening more than 7,500 men and about 100 officers passed into our collecting stations.

East

GERMAN

BERLIN, Aug. 20 (DAY).—Army Group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria—There was nothing new.

Army Group of Archduke Joseph—German and Austro-Hungarian troops made a vigorous assault on both sides of the Oituz Valley and drove the stubbornly resisting Rumanians back in the direction of the Trotus Valley. A Wurttembergian mountain battalion especially distinguished itself. More than 1,500 prisoners and thirty machine guns have been brought in.

Army Group of Field Marshal von Mackensen—On the western bank of the Sereth stubborn struggles developed at the Marasechti railway station, in the course of which more than 2,200 prisoners remained in our hands. South of the confluence of the Ritnio strong Russian attacks failed before our positions.

Constantine Did Not Dare to Join Germans

Told William Allied Fleets Prevented Following Out of His Sympathies

LONDON, Aug. 20.—An Athens dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that among the diplomatic documents found in Athens since the change in government is a dispatch of former King Constantine, written a few days after the war began in response to a message from Emperor William, who proposed Greece should range herself on the side of the Central Powers. Constantine said in his reply:

"The Emperor well knows my personal sympathies, as well as my political opinions, attract me to his side. Nevertheless it is impossible for me to understand in what manner I could be useful to him in mobilizing my army. The Mediterranean is at the mercy of the united fleets of England and France, which could destroy our navy and merchant marine, occupy our islands, and, above all, prevent concentration of my army, which could be effected only by sea, in the absence of railway communications. Without it being in our power to be useful in any particular, we would be wiped off the map. I am necessarily of the opinion that neutrality is imposed upon us."

Gottlieb von Jagow, then German Foreign Secretary, replied that Emperor William would understand the necessity of maintaining neutrality for the present. He advised Constantine to reach an understanding with Sofia and Constantinople.

Americans Wounded Abroad

OTTAWA, Aug. 20.—The names of the following Americans appeared among the wounded on to-day's casualty list: G. Savoie, Swanton, Vt., and T. W. Culleton, Ansonia, Conn.

Raid German Bases by Air

English Bombs Dropped on Important Places

LONDON, Aug. 20.—German military establishments in Belgium, which have been attacked repeatedly of late by British airplanes, were again raided on Saturday night, the Admiralty announces. The statement follows:

"Many tons of bombs were dropped on the night of August 18-19 by the Naval Air Service on the following military objectives: St. Pierre Station and sidings at Ghent, Thourout station and dump, and Bruges docks.

"A raid was also carried out yesterday morning on the Snellegham airdrome, where a direct hit was made on a large shed.

"On their return our machines were attacked by hostile aircraft, which were beaten off with the aid of a Royal Flying Corps patrol. One enemy machine was shot down out of control. All ours returned safely."

Prince Albert Ill

Second Son of George V Compelled to Give up Duties

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Prince Albert, second son of the King, has been obliged to leave his ship, owing to gastric trouble, according to an announcement in the court circular to-night. A consultation of physicians has been held, as a result of which it was decided that the prince must submit to a course of treatment. This will prevent him from undertaking any duty afloat for several months.

Prince Albert has suffered from gastric disorders for several years. He was operated on for appendicitis in 1914, and on several occasions has been obliged to go on sick leave.

Rumanians Driven Down Oituz Valley

Germans Claim 2,200 Russian Prisoners North of Fokshani

LONDON, Aug. 20.—The southwestern corner of Moldavia was again the scene of sanguinary fighting yesterday, in which the Teutons, according to the Berlin official statement, won marked successes. The Austrians, advancing down both sides of the Oituz Valley, drove the Rumanians before them toward the River Trotus and captured 1,500 prisoners and thirty machine guns.

German troops under von Mackensen engaged in stubborn battles with the Russians at the railroad station at Marasechti, north of Fokshani and west of the River Sereth, and though no territorial gains are claimed it is stated that 2,200 prisoners were seized. Russian relieving attacks at the confluence of the Sereth and the Ritnic are set down as failures.

This narrow corner of Rumania is the only place on any front where the forces of the Central Powers are conducting an offensive, and it is proceeding but slowly. It has been halted several days, apparently for lack of reserves and on account of the arrival of Russian and Rumanian reinforcements.

Judging from the fighting reported to-day, however, new Teuton units have been brought up, and the rolling up of the Allied forces is to continue. But as long as the Russians and Rumanians can remain on the west bank of the Sereth and offer the stubborn resistance which has characterized them since the beginning of the campaign Jassy, the Rumanian capital, is safe.

In Galicia, Volhynia and along the Northern Russian front no fighting whatever was reported.

Germans Plan Vital Blow in Rumania

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Dispatches to the Russian Embassy to-day indicated that the German and Austrian forces operating in Rumania have as their main purpose the rolling up and envelopment of the Russo-Rumanian armies. The advices stated that Germany has withdrawn reserves from the Western front for the operations in Rumania, which have assumed proportions as great as those marking the invasion and overrunning of Rumania by the Germanic troops a year ago.

General von Hindenburg personally is directing the Austro-German advance. There are four separate attacking armies, the two principal ones being under the command of General Falkenhayn and General Koenesch, respectively, Generals Krimek and Ortz commanding the other two. The present Petrograd government believes the objective of the Germans is Jassy, the provisional capital of the Rumanian government. The German advance was said to be over a front of 200 miles.

Russia believes strategic advantage may be obtained by the Allies in the West and also by Russia from the weakening by Germany of the Western front to press her advantages against Russia and from the stiffening Russian resistance. The Russians have discovered that a number of the fresh German reserves have been brought to the East from the Alsatian front.

80,000 Homeless From Salonica Fire

Old Greek City, Occupied by Allies, More Than Half Destroyed

LONDON, Aug. 20.—More than half the walled city of Salonica, in Greek Macedonia, which is under occupation by the Entente Allied troops, was destroyed by fire Saturday. Eighty thousand people were rendered homeless. They were removed to neighboring villages, according to a despatch received in London.

The commercial quarter of the city also was destroyed. It is believed few persons were killed. The fire is under control.

Germany Thought To Be Worried Over Attitude of Turks

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Officials here are much interested in the reported selection of Count von Bernstorff as Ambassador to Turkey. Before leaving America, Count von Bernstorff informed friends that his chief desire was to retire to his estate, but his influence and experience are believed to have marked him for the special task of holding Turkey faithful to the Central Powers.

There have been several recent indications of Turkish dissatisfaction, which are believed to have caused Germany some concern.

Belgian Mission Arrives Here; Is Closely Guarded

Precautions Taken by Federal Agents and Police at Pennsylvania Station

Met by Committee

Thousands Cheer Commission on Way to the Biltmore, Its Headquarters

Belgium's war mission to the United States arrived in New York last night. The train bearing the commission reached the Pennsylvania station at 11 o'clock.

Elaborate precautions had been made by the Federal authorities and the Police Department to guard its members from the moment they set foot in the city, and from half an hour before the train was due until the distinguished visitors were well on their way uptown in automobiles no one was allowed near that portion of the station through which it was necessary for them to pass.

As a precaution the officials of the railroad arranged to take the members of the mission from the track level to the street in elevators, where automobiles, each separately guarded, awaited them.

Committee Meets Mission

The first to greet the members of the mission was the executive committee of the Mayor's Reception Committee, which was headed by George T. Wilson and which included Controller Prendergast, Fire Commissioner Adamson, Acting Police Commissioner Godley, Frederic R. Coudert, chairman of the Mayor's Committee of Citizens; Major General Daniel Appleton and staff, Oliver Harriman, Henry S. Thompson, William C. Demorest, Hunter Wykes, S. L. Martin, executive secretary to the Mayor, and George Feathston.

The automobiles bearing the mission and the committee drove through West Thirty-third Street to Fifth Avenue, up the avenue, which was a veritable "Golden Way" with its hundreds of specially placed arc lamps, to Fifty-ninth Street; then through to Broadway and down the Great White Way to Forty-fourth Street, where the cars turned off to the Biltmore, which is to be the headquarters of the mission while in the city.

There were good sized crowds outside the station, at the Plaza and at Columbus Circle, and as the members of the mission whirled by they were greeted with enthusiastic cheers, to which they responded by doffing their hats and waving their hands.

Official Reception To-day

The official reception of the mission will be held at the City Hall at 11:30 this morning. At the specific request of the visitors this will be the only public function arranged in their honor. There will be a number of private dinners and receptions tendered them this evening, however, by various members of the Mayor's committee.

This afternoon the mission will be taken on an automobile trip through part of New York, Brooklyn and Long Island, returning to the Biltmore at 7 o'clock to-night.

The mission is headed by Baron Moncheur, and includes Mr. De Cartier de Marchrenne, Belgian Minister at Washington; Lieutenant General Le Clercq, of the Belgian Army; Major Osterrieth, also of the army; Hector Carlier, Lieutenant Count d'Ursel, an army officer; Jean Mertens, Warren D. Robbins, secretary of the embassy, representing the State Department; Captain T. C. Cook, U. S. A., military aid to Lieutenant Le Clercq; James G. Whitely, of the Belgian Legation, and Mr. O'Connell, special agent of the State Department.

Belgian Mission Opposes Pope's Plan

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 20.—Members of the Belgian War Mission to the United States, who were guests of the city to-day, voiced their opposition to the Pope's peace plan, and intimated that the plea for a cessation of the war had its inspiration in Berlin. The party included Baron Ludovic Moncheur, General Le Clercq, Hector Carlier, Major Osterrieth and Count Louis D'Ursel.

"We must fight on," said General Le Clercq, who is a veteran of Liège. "We must not lay down our arms for one instant because of peace talk.

"German militarism would enslave the world. We shall have justice, independence, liberty and enduring peace after a little while. But these aims are not possible by arbitration. We shall gain them only by fighting to the end."

Killed in First Battle

Mt. Vernon Man Dies in France Fighting for Britain

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Aug. 20.—A cablegram received by Thomas Woodlock, of North Avenue, has informed him that his nephew, Lieutenant Francis J. Woodlock, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, was killed in action in Flanders, August 13, one week after he went into the trenches. Lieutenant Woodlock lived with his uncle here six years before joining the English army.

An hour before Mr. Woodlock received the cablegram, he got a letter from his nephew, saying that his training period was completed, and that he expected to be in the trenches in a week. It is believed he was killed in his first battle.

Lieutenant Woodlock was twenty-four years old and a native of England. He was educated at Stonyhurst College, England, and came here to work for the William R. Grace Company. Eighteen months ago he returned to England to visit his grandfather, Thomas Woodlock, of London. He later enlisted and was trained at Cambridge University for his commission.

Reform Policy for India

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Edwin S. Montagu, Secretary for India, will go to India next winter to take up the reform of the government there. Mr. Montagu said to-day that the policy of the British government, with which the government of India was in complete accord, was of an increasing association of Indians with every branch of the Indian Administration, and of gradual development of self-governing institutions. It has been decided that substantial steps in this direction shall be taken as soon as possible.

The government, Mr. Montagu said, had decided to recognize the principle of granting commissions in the army to Indians.

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British Admiral Predicts Sea Battle

Hibbert, Here, Thinks Germans Will Use Fleet as Last Resort

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Aug. 20.—Rear Admiral Hugh T. Hibbert, of the British navy, who as flag captain in command of the port of Queenstown became familiar to Americans when the Lusitania was sunk, arrived here to-day on an armed merchantman. He is on a special mission for the British Admiralty.

For many months Admiral Hibbert was in charge of the fleet of "bulldogs" that stood guard outside the port of New York and off Cape Charles and Cape Henry. He was recalled to England and later sent out on his present errand.

Although he has been in active service since the beginning of the war, he said that he had never seen a German submarine. As to the effectiveness of submarine warfare, he said that while the situation called for unrelaxed vigilance and was undoubtedly serious, he did not believe that it would ever be effectual.

"Personally," he added, "I believe that they have done their worst. The natural wastage is very great, and it does not seem possible that the Germans can continue to put out submarines at a rate to keep up their record."

He believes that the Germans will not end the war, however, without a great naval battle, and is of the opinion that they are holding back the navy as a last resort. "I see by the papers," he said, "that the Kaiser recently visited the fleet at Wilhelmshaven, and I am hoping that it foreshadows a move in that direction."

Neutral Shipping Warned by Britain

May Be Treated Like Enemy Vessels After War, Says Lord Cecil

LONDON, Aug. 20.—In principle the British government is of the opinion, Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, told the House of Commons today, that neutral shipping which has been persistently and continuously assisting Great Britain's enemies should be treated after the war on the same footing as enemy shipping.

Vessels that lie in port in consequence of the German government's threats, the minister added, would certainly be considered as assisting the belligerent objects of the enemy.

German Merchant in Boat Shot by Michigan Soldiers

SAULT STE MARIE, Mich., Aug. 20.—alfred Benninghaus, a German merchant, was wounded by machine gun bullets early to-day, when his launch was fired on by Michigan infantrymen in a patrol boat, after a command to stop had not been obeyed.

Benninghaus and two companions reached the Canadian side, where they were arrested. It is alleged they attempted to evade inspection by American officials on a trip from the American to the Canadian side of St. Mary's River.

Great New French Blast Furnaces Fired

Establishment Will Bring Big Addition to Nation's Pig Iron Resources

PARIS, Aug. 20.—Fires have just been started in the biggest blast furnaces in France, which have been planned and constructed during the war near Caen, in the Department of Calvados, where German iron manufacturers began before the war to extend their holdings and were preparing to erect an iron and steel mill to utilize the iron and ore of this department.

M. Thomas, Minister of Armament, presided over the ceremony. The new establishment will bring an important addition to French resources in pig iron.

Kaiser Thanks Fleet For 'Successful Labor'

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 20.—At the conclusion of his visit to the German High Sea Fleet at Wilhelmshaven Emperor William issued the following to the fleet:

"After having recently received an announcement that a renewed heavy attack of the enemy in an attempt to break up our sea front in Flanders had been successfully repelled, I have to-day by a visit to my fleet and the island fortress of Helgoland been enabled to convince myself of the strength and security of this front, too. I expres my warm appreciation to all the high sea forces on the water, under water and in the air, and to the fortress of Helgoland, for the untiring, self-sacrificing and successful labor by means of which they have attained this aim. May the fleet remain conscious that the confidence of myself and the Fatherland reposes firmly on it."

The Emperor distributed a number of Iron Crosses.

His visit is reported to have been caused by the threat of strikes at the Wilhelmshaven arsenal.

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