

GERMAN TROOPS DEEPLY HARSHIPS BATTLING WITH FORCES OF CZAR

Fierce Blizzard Fails to Change Regulations of Von Hindenburg's Army Fighting in Poland.

CANNON'S ROAR IS CONTINUOUS AT BOLIMOW

Iron Discipline Prevails Over All Difficulties and Teutonic Soldiers March Cheerfully Through Storm.

(By James O'Donnell Bennett)

(Copyright 1915. By The Chicago Tribune.) Lower, Russia, Feb. 22.—The blizzard there has been threatening for some time. Night has fallen, it is almost as dark indoors as out for the supply of petroleum has run so low that it is served out in cups and only to high officers and to cooks. Both must do their work, and the work of both is of the first importance. The blizzard is sweeping across the wide square that the soldiers have facetiously renamed the "Hindenburgplatz." It is blinding men and horses. At 8 o'clock, in getting to the officers' mess, I found the officers, where I live with a Russian lady, who has changed her quarters with his face turned toward Jerusalem. I have to step into a doorway to catch breath. One cannot keep his eyes open, so piercing is the sleet. The sound of the heavy guns has absolutely ceased, for the first time in five nights. Not even the cannons can fight this kind of weather.

Casino Formerly Inn.

Soldiers wet to the skin and ravenous are stamping into the officers' casino. The place is soggy and its innards are limited. Before it was elevated to military dignity, through being designated as an officers' dining room, it was a sufficiently respectable Polish-Russian inn—walls two feet and a half thick, ceilings low, floors undulating, highly colored pictures of Napoleon and murderous scenes from Slavic history on the green walls, and an extremely slight concentration of the necessities of human existence.

More Wick Than Oil.

Narrow passageways, where you encounter good-natured little Polish waitresses, who take their nightly repose on couches made up in the dining room, lead to those dark apartments for the night where the correspondents foregather an oil lamp that is burning more wick than petroleum gives off a smell of all proportion to the light it sheds.

No More Rum.

If we are lucky we shall get a plate of watery soup, black bread, cold sausage and hot tea, served in thin glasses. If we are not so lucky, we shall have to omit the soup. Two days ago there was rum, and sugar, the Germans call Grog, but the rum has either run out entirely or been commandeered for the wounded.

VIGOROUS REPLY TO RECENT SPEECH ON CAUSE OF WAR

Sir Edward Grey's Contention That International Conference Would Have Prevented Struggle Is Disputed.

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Berlin, March 24 (By Wireless to Sayville).—A reply to the speech of Sir Edward Grey, British foreign minister, on the cause of the war, was published today in the Nord Deutscher published today in the Nord Deutscher. Referring to Sir Edward's assertion that the crisis which preceded the war might have been settled by an international conference as was the Italian crisis, the newspaper says:

"The Balkan conference decided the matters of interest to several of the great powers, whereas the question at issue between Austria-Hungary and Serbia related to only two countries. It was therefore incompatible with the dignity of a great power. Moreover, Russia would have availed herself of the delay for mobilization, thus making illusory the decisions of such conference."

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, March 24.—New Mexico: Snow or rain Thursday and Friday; colder.

WILHELMINA'S CARGO HAS DIVIDED OWNERSHIP

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Washington, March 24.—Complications have arisen in regard to the ownership of the cargo of the American steamer Wilhelmina which are believed to have influenced the British admiralty court in rejecting the British application for a prompt distribution of the proceeds by the court.

MARSHALL STEERS CLEAR OF RADICALISM

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) St. Francisco, March 24.—Assuring the delegates to the International Waterways congress which convened here today, that the national government heartily favored extensive development of natural waterways, Vice President Marshall, in an address before the body, declared that while he at all times favored expenditures on projects beneficial to the American people, he was absolutely opposed to appropriations covering what he termed "mirage" improvements.

Blizzard Becomes Worse.

9:30 o'clock—I leave the casino. The blizzard has risen in fury. The streets are almost deserted. Four soldiers, laughing in rich gutturals, are carrying newly arrived mail sacks to the sorting station.

Complete Field Hospital.

New York, March 24.—A complete field hospital purchased from the war department by the American Red Cross society for the use by the American ambulance hospital in Paris was shipped on the steamship Guatemala of the French line which sailed cost about \$10,000.

Big Fight for MATAMORAS IS NOW BEGINNING

Villa Is Advancing With 8,000 Men Against Entrenched Force of Constitutionalists, Is Washington Advice.

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Washington, March 24.—Reports to the state department and to the Mexican agencies here, indicate that an impending battle for possession of Matamoras, the port across the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Tex., which apparently is to be the scene of the first real fight of the Villa campaign against the east coast of Mexico. Some of the dispatches indicated that skirmishes already had taken place.

Desperate Fight Ensnues.

"From the 30th to the 12th further progress was made. We arrived to within 20 yards of the main German trench, which was particularly well fortified. Unable to withstand the fire, we were obliged to retire, until the 15th, when an epic combat at 1 o'clock in the morning resulted in our final capture. In pitch darkness our men approached silently, and ordered to charge. They then fell upon the line of defense so unexpectedly that the Germans were hounded in their tracks. Only a few survivors succeeded in retiring to their rear line."

Bayonets Reek With Blood.

"Bayonets reeked with blood. A strongly organized blackhouse was unmasked behind the trench and an outflanking fire from machine guns decimated our ranks, which, however, held good until 1:30, when the black house itself was attacked with great fury. Hand to hand fighting on the parapet lasted one hour."

CONSULS SAY YUCATAN IS NOT MISGOVERNED

New York, March 24.—The Associated Press has received from Merida, Yucatan, under date of March 23, a message signed by a group of foreign consular representatives in that city to the effect that conditions in Merida and in the state of Yucatan are quiet. The text of the message follows:

Morton to Succeed Bricker.

Washington, March 24.—Commander J. P. Morton was today detached from command of the battleship Wisconsin in reserve at Philadelphia and designated to command the gunboat Scorpion, station ship at Constantinople, succeeding Lieut. Com. William P. Bricker, drowned last Saturday.

SAVAGE BATTLE WITH BAYONETS ENDS IN CAPTURE OF SABOT WOODS

Official Eye-witness Tells of Struggle to Wrest Fortified Position From Germans on Front Near Souain.

DEAD LIE UNBURIED WHERE THEY FELL

Cold Steel Reeks With Blood and Clubbed Rifles Play Big Part in Desperate Hand to Hand Encounter.

Convicted of Night Riding.

Hylthegem, Ark., March 24.—Mark Rogers, the first of a number of farmers to be placed on trial on charges of night riding, was convicted on three counts by a jury here today.

Another Effort to Save Life of CHARLES BECKER

Assistant District Attorney Insists if All of Defendant's Contentions Are Admitted, Evidence Is Still Conclusive.

Attacks Testimony.

Manton attacked the testimony of James Marshall, a negro witness at the second trial, who came into prominence recently by reason of conflicting affidavits made by him concerning what he said of the murder.

WAST INCREASE OF FOODSTUFFS SENT TO EUROPE

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Washington, March 24.—American breadstuffs worth \$25,997,822 were shipped abroad during the eight months period ending February 28 last, as compared with \$10,215,581 for the same period of the preceding year.

Time Long Planned.

"It is the contention of the defense that the evidence affirmatively shows this crime was planned long before Beckler became stranded, that the crime was committed only when the real culprit saw there was a chance of escape if the newspaper editor or the incorporation of a high police official could be gratified."

Predicts Submarine Increase.

London, March 24 (4:27 p. m.).—A large increase in the number of submarines operating in the waters around the British Isles was predicted by Rear Admiral the Marquis of Bristol, in an address at a meeting in London today of the institution of naval architects of which he is president.

VILLA TAX RESENTED BY BRITISH COMPANY

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) El Paso, Tex., March 24.—A complaint has been made by the Mexican Land & Colonization Co., of Los Angeles, California, a British company, to the British ambassador at Washington, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, that it is being illegally taxed by the Villa government.

ROCK ISLAND POLICY VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Washington, March 24.—Counsel for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad company today filed with the Interstate Commerce commission a statement or the company's view of some of the financial transactions of the road which were the subject of the commission's recent inquiry.

LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE SETTLED AT CONFERENCE

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Seattle, Wash., March 24.—A longshoremen's strike in effect since March 14 and which has delayed shipping in all Puget sound ports was settled today at a conference of employes and representatives of the strikers. The men will return to work tomorrow.

UNITED STATES WILL PROTEST TO GERMANY

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Washington, March 24.—The United States government today decided to call to the attention of the German government a bomb attack reported to have been made recently by a German aeroplane on the Belgian relief commission steamer Efflandt, in the vicinity of the Dutch coast.

MANUFACTURERS ARE SUFFERING FROM WAR

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) Washington, March 24.—Assurance that American manufacturers supported President Wilson in his negotiations with the European belligerents for protection of American commerce, were conveyed to the president today by George Pope of New York, president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

CAROTHERS INSTRUCTED TO ACCOMPANY VILLA

(By Morning Journal Special Leased Wire.) El Paso, Tex., March 24.—The state department at Washington has instructed Special Agent George C. Carothers to join General Villa and accompany him through the territory which he will now under way. He will leave Gomez Palacio tomorrow for Monterrey.

Summary of War News of Yesterday

The Russian armies, doubtless inspired by the victory of Przemyśl, are pressing the fighting both in northern Poland and the Carpathians, where the Germans and Austrians are giving desperate battle to stay the attempted advance of the Muscovites.

RUSSIANS ENGAGED IN SANGUINARY OFFENSIVE

Petrograd, March 24 (Via London, 10:10 p. m.).—The following official statement of the progress of the war was issued today by the Austrian war office:

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WAR ACTIVITIES MORE INTENSE ON ALL FRONTS, REPORTS ASSERT

British Air Raid Damages German Submarines at Works Near Antwerp, Is Official Report.

GIGANTIC ENGAGEMENT ON IN CARPATHIANS

Unfavorable Weather Interferes With Fleet Operations Against Dardanelles Fortifications.

Disputed from the Frontiers.

Disputed from the frontiers, say that seven German submarines, when the Germans look the plant over, a high fence was erected around it, and workers were brought from Germany to build the submarines. It is pointed out that these had to violate the neutrality of Holland to pass down the Scheldt to the sea, but this was easy of accomplishment as they would pass Dutch forts unharmed.

British Airmen Too High.

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On his arrival at Monterey.

On his arrival at Monterey, Mr. Carothers will investigate the arrest of Minor Merriweather, the American spy who was captured in Philadelphia. An investigation of this case was ordered by the state department.

On the other extreme wing of the eastern front.

On the other extreme wing of the eastern front the Germans have resumed in progress between Dukla pass and Utsok pass in the Carpathians, where in their official communication the Russians claimed to have captured a number of Austrians. Austrian correspondents declare that this battle is likely to continue for some time.

GREAT BATTLE NOW ON IN THE CARPATHIANS

Vienna, March 24 (Via London, 10:10 p. m.).—The following official statement of the progress of the war was issued today by the Austrian war office:

On the right bank of the Narew river.

On the right bank of the Narew river, in the Skwa-Grzyz front, including the right bank of the river Grzyz, the engagements for possession of isolated points are assuming a more generally extreme character. The Germans, who brought up strong reinforcements here at the expense of other fronts, are stubbornly defending their positions by a deadly fire and are opening new and vigorous counter-attacks.

Our troops, however, are making slow but sure progress.

Our troops, however, are making slow but sure progress, capturing trenches and heights. Among the noteworthy actions have been hand-to-hand engagements, fought near Vakh-Karash and Jednorozec, where our troops who attacked with self-sacrificing valor, gained the day, taking about 300 prisoners, eight machine guns and two trench mortars.

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