

SMALL HAMLET TAKEN BY HAIG

Bilhem, East of Havrincourt Wood, Was Captured by British Last Night

3,029 PRISONERS TAKEN SINCE MONDAY

Ground Gained in Champagne and German Attacks Repulsed, Paris Reports

London, April 25.—The British have taken 3,029 prisoners since Monday morning, including 56 officers, according to the official statement of the war office today.

A British official communication issued at midnight says: "Further information received regarding Monday's battle shows that the fighting was of an exceptionally fierce nature. Seven German divisions were engaged on the front from Croisilles to Gavrelle. Several points of tactical importance changed hands more than once, but eventually all these remained in our possession, except a few buildings north of Roex.

"Not only were frequent hostile counter attacks shattered by our massed artillery fire, but those of the enemy who succeeded in penetrating our barbed wire were cut down by our rifle or machine gun fire.

"One British corps took prisoners from no less than four German divisions. Our troops advanced along the whole front.

"To-day there has again been considerable fighting, though somewhat less fierce in nature, at several points on the battlefield. Between the Senese river and Monchy le Preux our progress has been continued and our line has been advanced to within a few hundred yards of Fontaine les Croisilles and Cheriey.

"During the afternoon in the neighborhood of Gavrelle a hostile counter attack by strong forces was broken up by our artillery and driven back in disorder under our fire.

"More than 2,000 prisoners have passed through our collecting stations since Monday morning and there are others yet to come.

"There was a greater amount of fighting in the night than has taken place before in a single day. Our airplanes attacked the enemy's machines wherever they could be found with striking success, going far behind the enemy's lines and bombing his railways, dumps and airfields and compelling him to give battle.

"In the course of the fighting 15 German machines were brought down and destroyed and 24 others were driven down out of control, a majority of which probably crashed. A line trench engine three-seater was brought down inside our lines. Its occupants were made prisoners. Only two of our machines are missing."

Paris, April 25.—Ground was gained by the French last night in Champagne, the war office announced today. A German attack in the neighborhood of Hurtheville was repulsed. The Germans made several futile efforts to take French trenches near Echure and Haisoude de Champagne, leaving many dead in the wire entanglements.

The official communication issued last night was as follows: "The day was marked chiefly by artillery actions along the whole front. We continued to shell the enemy batteries and organizations in the regions of St. Quentin, the Oise, Gorenay, Juvencon and Champagne. Explosions were observed in a number of batteries.

"We have brought down four German aeroplanes and shot down one captured during recent engagements on the plateau of the Chemin des Dames, not included in the previous inventory made public.

"Near Morenvillers our light forces penetrated the German trenches and found them filled with bodies.

"Belgian communication: There was intense artillery activity this morning. Eastern theatre, April 25: Artillery actions occurred during the whole front. A German bombing squadron was obliged by British airplanes to turn about."

AIRPLANES ATTACKED WARSHIP.

British Think a German Destroyer Was Given Death Blow.

London, April 25.—A British admiralty statement reports an attack by three British naval machines on five enemy destroyers, which were seen at 4:10 p. m. Monday straggling between Blankenberghe and Zebrugghe in a northeasterly direction five miles off the coast.

"The leading machine," says the statement, "attacked, dropping sixteen bombs, one of which was seen to obtain a direct hit. The remaining four destroyers scattered and were attacked by the two remaining machines. 32 bombs being dropped. The leading destroyer was observed to take a list to port and remained stationary after all the bombs had been dropped.

"The four destroyers closed in on the disabled craft. A hostile seaplane attacked our machines, but was easily driven off. At 6:10 p. m. the four destroyers were reported by a reconnaissance machine as entering Zebrugghe harbor. It is considered most probable that one destroyer was sunk."

GERMAN LOSSES HEAVY.

British Artillery Knocked Regiments Into Bits.

London, April 25.—The correspondents at British headquarters emphasize the immense losses the Germans suffered in the last two days' fighting. One story says that a party of Germans estimated at about four thousand, attempted to advance to attack from the direction of the Bois Du Sauc, but was "absolutely knocked to bits" by the British guns. Between Gavrelle and Roex two battalions of Rhinelanders were mangled for a counter attack, when caught by the

British artillery. One battalion, according to dispatches is believed to have been almost wiped out and the other completely shattered.

40 GERMAN PLANES WINGED IN ONE DAY

British Airmen Perform Remarkably—Fights Took Place 15,000 Feet in the Air—Only Two British Machines Missing.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, with the British armies in France, via London, April 25.—The intensely bitter ground fighting of the past two days has been reflected in the air, and the British royal flying corps yesterday established a new record by bringing down 40 German machines. Fifteen of these were actually seen to spin while 25 collapsed or fell in crashing nose dives, completely out of control.

The fights took place 15,000 feet in the air, from which distance it is barely possible to see the ground, and wholly impossible to see an adversary crash unless the pilot deliberately follows down. Such a course is not feasible where the fighting has taken on the character of a general melee, as is nowadays often the case. A remarkable part of yesterday's performance is that only two British machines are missing.

It was the finest day for war flying that the young pilots ever had, and they were at it from sunrise, but the full reports of their exploits are not in yet. It is known, however, that one intrepid young flier, failing to find a single German observation balloon aloft, sought out one in its hangar on the ground, dived at it, and set the big gas bag ablaze from stem to stern.

Since Sunday the British airmen have been reveling in weather they have long desired. Not a cloud was in the sky yesterday behind which a German could find shelter. Deprived of that means of "digging themselves in," the German fliers were far scarcer than usual and very difficult to find. British machines were everywhere along the battlefield and far behind the German lines. Bombing raids were carried out 45 miles back, the machines deliberately flying over ground where battles were raging with the greatest fury.

GERMANS EXHAUSTED IN FIERCE EFFORTS TO RETAKE MONCHY

Little Artois Village Will Stand Out as One of the Most Bloody Spots in the World War.

British Front in France via London, April 25 (from staff correspondent of the Associated Press).—The town of Monchy le Preux, about five miles east of Arras, will stand out in history as one of the bloodiest spots of the world war. The fighting north, east and south of this little Artois village, perched upon a high knoll, has exceeded in intensity any of the individual struggles of the Somme. The efforts of the Germans to retake the village apparently have subsided on account of sheer exhaustion of their available forces.

BITTER FIGHT FOR GAVRELLE.

Germans Report They Captured 650 British There Monday.

Berlin, via London, April 25.—Since yesterday and this morning, says the official statement, fighting has continued for possession of the village of Gavrelle, six miles north of Arras. On Monday, the statement adds, 650 British soldiers were taken prisoners. Twenty airplanes were brought down by the Germans Monday, and 19 entente machines were accounted for yesterday on the western front.

ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION

Was Put Down in Front of Embassy in Petrograd.

Petrograd, via London, April 25.—An effort by a small group of ultra-radicals to make an unfriendly demonstration before the American embassy yesterday was frustrated by militiamen as the radicals marched down the Nevsky prospect on their way to the embassy.

The demonstration was headed by Nikolai Lenine, the radical Socialist leader, who recently arrived here through Germany from Switzerland with a safe conduct from the German authorities. The demonstration is said to have been due to the alleged killing in America of an anarchist named Mooney, who was under sentence in San Francisco.

A guard was sent by the authorities to protect the embassy.

U. S. IS WARNED BY GEN. BRIDGES

Volunteer Plan Cost England Most Valuable Lives, Crippled Industrial Mobilization.

Washington, April 25.—Lieut. Gen. Bridges, a member of the British commission here, declared yesterday in a talk with newspaper correspondents that the British democracy had become "almost fanatical" over universal military service. The volunteer system under which the empire entered the war, he said, has cost the lives of the most valuable citizens, crippled industrial mobilization and immeasurably set back England's efforts in the war.

"War," said Gen. Bridges, "no longer is a war of expeditions, but is a case of nation against nation. Men, women and children are equally drawn into its vortex; the women and children being forced into industry and fed on half rations in order to supply the men at the front. War has become an immensely democratic business and needs the full effort of every member of the community, directing along the lines most necessary to be served."

SPAIN SENDS CURT NOTE

Threatening to Join Allies if Germany Persists in U-Boat Campaign

FRESH OUTBURST FELT IN GERMANY

Spirit Against Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg Growing

While the mighty struggle in France rages inconclusively, the developments in other fields of the world upheaval are occurring with sensational rapidity. Spain has addressed a note to Germany which, on its face, must result in abandonment by Berlin of its uncompromising attitude on ruthless submarine warfare or acceptance of a new and important foe.

Next in importance are growing rumors of a great German attempt to be made against Petrograd. The reports are taken seriously enough in the Russian capital to induce many hundreds of civilians to flee to the interior.

The unrest in Germany is having a new manifestation in a fresh outburst against Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg by the conservatives and national liberals. The chancellor is being violently attacked for alleged subservience to Socialist influences, and the opening of the Reichstag, scheduled for to-day, is expected to bring these attacks to a focus.

ROOT TO HEAD COMMISSION.

Will Be Asked By President Wilson to Go to Russia.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Elliott Root will head the American commission to Russia if he will consent to undertake the duty. It became known yesterday that the president has completed the selection of the principal members of the mission.

The names of the men tentatively chosen to make up the commission will not be made public until they have been formally requested to serve, and have accepted.

It was said, however, that the men whom the president has in mind are all distinguished in their particular lines, and together will make up a commission which will indicate to the Russian government and people deep interest in their welfare held by the American government.

Among those besides Mr. Root whose names have been mentioned in the preliminary discussion are: Oscar Strauss, former secretary of commerce and labor; Edward N. Hurley, former chairman of the trade commission, and Henry Morgenthau, former ambassador to Turkey.

Charles R. Crane of Chicago, business man and personal friend of President Wilson, has arrived in Russia and will keep the government in touch with business conditions there, pending the arrival of the commission.

FOOD EXPERTS FOR EACH STATE.

Will Be Put at the Disposal of the Governor.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—State cooperation in the government's wartime food control program will be encouraged by the first glimpse of the shores of America at daylight yesterday morning. American naval officers aboard a flotilla of destroyers met the former French passenger liner which brought the visitors over and the convoy at 11 o'clock Monday night about 100 miles at sea.

The French and American vessels exchanged signals and then all continued toward the Virginia capes. Not a light was showing at any time during the maneuver. At dawn the flotilla and its guests fell in with an American cruiser which led the way to Hampton Roads.

All the members of the commission were on the bridge of their boat shortly after 5 o'clock to see the entrance. The day was magnificent. As the roads came into view, Marshal Joffre turned to an American naval officer, serving as pilot, and said:

"What a wonderful scene. I love this sunshine. It reminds me of my own country—the land of France."

Once inside the harbor the American destroyers slipped away to their anchorages. Meanwhile every American ship in the harbor hoisted to their mastsheads the French tri-color, and the band of a warship played "The Star Spangled Banner." Marshal Joffre and the military and naval members stood at salute until the last note had floated across the water while the civilian members stood with bare heads. Immediately after came the French national anthem, which was saluted in a similar manner.

The ship bearing the mission dropped anchor off Fort Monroe, while the convoy steamed several miles farther on. Gen. Vignal, the military and naval attaché of the French embassy at Washington, Stephane Lauzanne, confidential representative, and Col. Spencer Cosby, U. S. A., assigned as Marshal Joffre's aide, came aboard soon after with dispatches and to greet the visitors. Admiral Mayo, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, called later. There was no saluting, the formality of firing salvos of guns having been dispensed with by agreement.

"We are saving our powder for the Germans," remarked the commander of the French ship.

All of the commissioners returned Admiral Mayo's call later. They then lunched on board their own vessel, finishing just in time to receive Ambassador Jusserand, Maj. Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the army, Assistant Secretary of State Long, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Roosevelt, and several other officials, who arrived from Washington on board the Mayflower.

ALLIES CONFIDENT UNITED STATES WILL STICK TO IT

Balfour Says They Have No Intention of Asking This Country to Depart from Its Traditional Policies.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—British Foreign Secretary Balfour stated today that the allied governments are completely convinced of America's wholehearted consecration toward the common end of destroying Prussian militarism and would not think of asking this country to depart from its traditional policies or enter into any formal alliance which might prove embarrassing. "No treaty," he said in conversation with newspaper men, "could increase our unbounded confidence that the United States, having come into the war, will see it through to the great end we all hope for."

WHEAT

May Option Jumped to \$2.48 in Chicago Pit Today.

Chicago, April 25.—Wheat shot past all previous high records today. May option rose 7/8, cents to \$2.48. Traders were somewhat impressed by the prediction, credited to the minister of agriculture of Ontario, that wheat would sell at \$4 before it sold again at \$2.

CLOTHES ON RIVER BANK.

Indication That Samuel Marcotte of Winooski Drowned Himself.

Winooski, April 25.—Samuel Marcotte, who has been missing from his home since Sunday morning, is thought to have committed suicide as his overcoat and undercoat with his soft black hat have been found lying on the bank of the river at Essex Junction. Suicide by drowning is thought to be the solution of the case. Mr. Marcotte had been in poor health and it is thought his condition was brought on by overwork, which temporarily deranged his mind.

At church Sunday he remarked to another man that he was going to Essex Junction to get some seed potatoes and was to take the noon electric car. This was the last seen of him. Not returning home the family was alarmed. Search revealed nothing, but yesterday Chief Barber, with Joseph Marcotte, a son and his wife went to Essex Junction to search. Mr. Marcotte's coats were found on the south bank of the river just east of the old covered bridge. A search along the river in the neighborhood did not reveal his body. In the pockets of the coats were found the man's prayer book and beads and his pocketbook containing 27 cents. The watch was stopped at 7 o'clock.

Since the rains of last week the water in the river became quite high and there is a swift current at the point in the river where his coats were found. It is thought that his body was rushed down the river in the high water of Sunday. A reward of \$50 is offered by the family for the recovery of the body. Mr. Marcotte was about 65 years old and besides his wife leaves five sons and four daughters.

WAR COMMISSION WITH JOFFRE AND VIVIANI WELCOMED TO-DAY

Have Full Power to Reach Agreement

Balfour Expresses His Confidence in America's Steadfastness

Washington, D. C., April 25.—The French commission, headed by Joffre and Viviani, landed safely at the Washington navy yard today soon after noon, having made the trip from Hampton Roads on the presidential yacht Mayflower.

The French mission brings no written instructions from the French government, the ministry having decided to give its members unlimited powers to negotiate with the United States on all subjects, military, naval, financial. It is prepared to discuss the sending of an American expeditionary force to France. Marshal Joffre and other military members will indicate to the American officials with whom they are to confer several important military reasons which they consider renders the sending of such a force advisable. The most important of these reasons is found in the moral effect to be had from the presence of American troops and the American flag on the battle fields of France.

The French idea of a fighting force supported by auxiliary services, such as railway staffs, railway material, base repair shops, telegraph and telephone lines, automobile transport and a strong aviation section. The French government is ready to offer whatever may be considered necessary to assist in sea operations, including the use for naval purposes of any or all ports in France. The ministry of marine has worked out for submission to the American government a comprehensive plan for overseas transports, for both army and navy purposes and for the provisioning of the civil population.

Financially France needs loans of \$100,000,000 monthly to be spent in the United States. Detailed official information on this subject will be submitted to the American government at the conference to be held in Washington.

Mr. Viviani, as official head of the commission, gave the following statement to a staff correspondent of the Associated Press who accompanied the mission from France:

"Every American will understand that in deference to the illustrious president of the United States, whom I am going to see very soon, I reserve first word for him. I will have occasion to see you again and tell the American nation through you in a more complete manner the emotions with which the representatives of France greet in the name of their country, the first democracy of the world, with which France shares the same ideals."

(Signed) "Viviani." The members of the commission got their first glimpse of the shores of America at daylight yesterday morning. American naval officers aboard a flotilla of destroyers met the former French passenger liner which brought the visitors over and the convoy at 11 o'clock Monday night about 100 miles at sea.

The French and American vessels exchanged signals and then all continued toward the Virginia capes. Not a light was showing at any time during the maneuver. At dawn the flotilla and its guests fell in with an American cruiser which led the way to Hampton Roads.

All the members of the commission were on the bridge of their boat shortly after 5 o'clock to see the entrance. The day was magnificent. As the roads came into view, Marshal Joffre turned to an American naval officer, serving as pilot, and said:

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TALK OF THE TOWN

H. Gale Bennett of Spaulding street has returned from a business visit of a week in Detroit, Mich.

Relatives in Barre of Alex. C. Jeffrey, who left the city for Bridgeport, Conn., last Saturday, have received word that he has obtained employment in the factory of the Remington Arms Co.

Ralph W. Kent of Orange street, who has been employed as a railway clerk in the Barre & Chelsea railroad office for some years, has been promoted to the position of billing clerk in the freight office of the M. & W. R. railroad.

Roy Chynoweth, a student in Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y., was a visitor in the city yesterday while on his way home to Williamstown for a visit. Mr. Chynoweth is one of several hundred students who received the privilege of returning home to work on the farm.

Henry Massee and William Young, who have been passing the winter in St. Augustine, Fla., where they were employed in the Plaza hotel, arrived in the city yesterday for a visit of several weeks.

FRENCH ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON

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CLAIM EX-OVERSEER DID BUSINESS WITH THE CITY

Auditors Say That W. J. Clapp Sold Wood While Serving as an Official, in Violation of the City Charter.

Information indicating that an ex-overser of the poor received pay for supplies furnished the charity department in direct violation of a clause in the city charter which forbids a city official from entering into a contract with the city under such circumstances, reached the board of aldermen at its regular meeting last evening through statements made by the auditors, D. J. Sullivan and William Stephens. The disclosure concerns W. J. Clapp, who was succeeded April 1 by William McDonald, present head of the charity department. Before the auditors left the council chamber they had given evidence tending to show that Alderman Bruce, a member of the charity committee, received from the city money for transporting a woman to the state hospital in Waterbury. The aldermen acted by appointing a committee of three, to include the mayor, the city attorney and the city clerk, to make a careful investigation and report its findings.

Mr. Clapp was not present to defend himself and therefore only one side of the case was heard. But Alderman Bruce explained the item for transportation by saying that the husband of the woman who was transferred to Waterbury later made good his guarantee by reimbursing the city for money paid on transportation. According to the statement made by the auditors, a member of the charity committee received \$275. Mr. Bruce asserted that he accompanied the chief of police on the trip, and that the money was the patient's husband made good the expenses of the trip and that the money was turned over to the city treasurer.

Upon appearing before the aldermen, Mr. Sullivan explained the mission of the auditing board by stating that it had completed the examination of Mr. Clapp's books, that certain items therein contained appeared to have been entered as bills contracted and paid in violation of the city charter. It was not the purpose of the auditors to report the books as audited and accounts properly vouched for before the aldermen had had time to examine certain entries. The first item had to do with a bill paid March 17, which was not included in the budget approved by the charity committee March 25. Upon inquiry it developed that the bill was properly contracted. Alderman Bruce recalled the circumstances attending its payment. In the second instance, the auditors referred to the bill for auto hire and the third referred to wood alleged to have been sold the department by a partnership in which the retired overseer was interested.

In their statement covering this case, the auditors said that a bill was rendered for wood claimed to have been furnished by E. Letter, that the check was signed, "E. Letter, by W. J. Clapp." Alderman Milne interpolated the remark that maybe Mr. Letter couldn't sign for himself. The auditors' statement went on to intimate that the wood was sold in four loads, at \$3 per load, the grade being edgings. It was intimated that hard wood at that time probably cost no more than \$3 per cord. It was the understanding of the auditors that Messrs. Clapp and Letter were in company in the wood business.

Alderman Bruce thought that the auditors had the necessary authority to deal with the case.

(Continued on second page.)

BEGIN LOANING TO THE ALLIES

United States Turned Over \$200,000,000 to Great Britain

LIKE AMOUNT MAY GO TO ITALY SOON

France Aid to Stand in Next \$100,000,000 a Month

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo today handed the British ambassador, a treasury warrant for \$200,000,000, the first loan made to any entente government by the United States under the \$7,000,000,000 war finance measure. Most of the money is expected to be spent in this country for foodstuffs, munition and supplies.

A similar loan may be made to Italy soon. It is understood that the French mission which arrived yesterday will discuss with the American government France's need of a monthly loan of \$100,000,000 to be spent in the United States.

MRS. EDWARD BLANCHARD.

Died This Morning at Her Home On Branch Street.

Mrs. Mary Ella Blanchard, wife of Edward Blanchard, passed away at her home, 31 Branch street, this morning at 2:30 o'clock. Mrs. Blanchard had been in failing health for several months and latterly a severe attack of neuritis developed alarming complications. Besides her husband, she leaves three daughters, Mrs. M. H. Smith of Clintonville, N. Y., Mrs. Floyd W. Holt and Mrs. Elmer M. Polson of Barre, and three sons, Harry Blanchard, Raymond Blanchard and William Blanchard, all of this city. Surviving also is a sister, Mrs. Ezra Snow of Ausable Forks, N. Y.

The deceased was born Mary Ella Sanders in Clintonville, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1861. After her marriage to Mr. Blanchard she came to Barre and had been a resident of this city for the past 22 years. She was an attendant of the Methodist church.

Funeral services will be held at the house this evening at 7 o'clock. Rev. B. G. Lipsky, pastor of the Hedding Methodist church, officiating. Tomorrow morning at 2:45 o'clock the body will be taken over the Central Vermont railroad to Clintonville, N. Y., for burial.

RESPECTED MAN OF GRANITEVILLE

Gordon Smith Died After a Year's Illness.

Gordon Smith, a respected resident of Graniteville for many years, died at his home there yesterday noon after a year's suffering with cancer of the lip. During all his long illness Mr. Smith was patient and thoughtful. He leaves a large circle of friends in this vicinity.

Mr. Smith was born in Bury, P. Q., in 1853 and came to Graniteville 28 years ago. He was employed as a blacksmith, being in the employ of E. L. Smith & Co., until obliged by ill health to give up his work. On December 25, 1891, he married Margaret Abbott, and she and their seven children survive. The children are Maurice, John, Mrs. Adelaide Rousseau, Katherine, Avis, Sadie and Flora. He also leaves two sisters and one brother, Mrs. E. V. Evans, Mrs. Malcolm Morrison and Angus D. Smith, all of Graniteville.

The funeral will be held at his late home Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. It is requested that flowers be omitted.