

WHAT WARRING NATIONS CLAIM IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

French. PARIS, April 17 (via London).—This afternoon's official communication contains nothing that was not reported in the communication given out last night.

The following official statement was issued to-night by the French War Office:

"At Notre Dame de Lorette three German counterattacks were stopped on Friday. In the Valley of the Aisne our heavy artillery bombarded the caves of Pasley, which are being utilized as shelters by the German troops. That several of the caves had fallen in was indicated by explosions.

"In the Champagne, northwest of Perthes, the enemy exploded two mines near our trenches, and occupied the excavation, but no part of our trenches were occupied. Not far from there, to the north of Les Mesnil, attacks against one of the salients of our line were easily repulsed. In the Vosges there were artillery combats, notably in the region of the Bois de Mont Marie.

"There were significant actions yesterday and to-day.

"In the Vosges we made appreciable progress on the two banks of the Fecht River. On the northern bank we occupied a position west of Sillakerwer, which lies west of Metzler, and we debouched into the valley which goes down toward the Fecht.

"On the southern bank, our chasseurs, after a brilliant attack, carried the summit of the Schenepfer-Richkopf, which is 1,250 meters in height—the highest point of the ridge separating the two valleys, which meet at Metzler.

"A British aeroplane has brought down a German aeroplane in Belgium near Boesinghe (Flanders). The machine fell within our lines; the pilot was killed, and the observer taken prisoner.

"One of our dirigibles bombarded the station and aviation sheds at Freiburg, in Breisgau."

Russian. PETROGRAD, April 17 (via London).—General headquarters official statement to-day said:

"The actions in the Carpathians on April 15 were concentrated in the sector between the villages of Telepoch and Zuelia, where we consolidated our positions after

desperate bayonet fighting on the heights that the enemy had organized.

"We took 1,140 prisoners, among whom were forty officers, and also three machine guns. The enemy suffered great losses in making counterattacks, which were without effect.

"In the direction of Stry we successfully repulsed enemy units which had returned to the attack. On the other fronts there were no changes.

"Activity of a more animated character on the part of the German advance guards is shown in the districts of Mariampol and Kalwary.

"The Emperor has left for the front."

German. BERLIN, April 17 (by wireless).—The statement to-day from army headquarters is as follows:

"French attacks near Pithrey were repulsed.

"East of Ypres the British yesterday used grenades and bombs which developed an asphyxiating gas.

"On the south slope of Lorette heights, northwest of Arras, a small German point of support sixty yards long and fifty yards deep was lost.

"Champagne, northwest of Perthes, a group of French fortifications was stormed. A French counterattack failed.

"The Germans conquered a French position northwest of Urbais, in the Vosges. They captured French chasseurs, and then evacuated the position because of its disadvantageous situation.

"A French airplane destroyed window glass at Strasbourg and wounded civilians. A German aviator shelled Greenwich, near London.

"On the eastern front the situation is unchanged."

Austrian. VIENNA, April 17 (via London).—The following statement was given out by the Austrian War Office to-night:

"Owing to the possibility that the war may last a long time, and in order to secure the necessary reserves, the untrained Landsturm men between the ages of eighteen and fifty will hereafter be liable for military service."

Island of Lesbos. Spotted typhus has reached Lesbos, two cases already having been reported, says the correspondent.

His report is that on Wednesday and Thursday the weather in the Dardanelles was favorable for operations.

Those repulsed gave Freiburg a false sense of security. When an aeroplane appeared, roofs and windows were filled with spectators, who ignored official instructions to take refuge in cellars.

They saw little because the machine was almost constantly hidden in the clouds, but three violent explosions showed that the aviator had dropped bombs in the suburb. One bomb burst in the front of a church, mortally injuring a workman. A second traversed a house roof, tearing off a woman's right arm, and a third fell among a group of playing children. Three of them were killed.

Two others died in an ambulance, and of the several injured, one has since died. One of the children escaped with higher injuries. A freight truckman at the railway station was killed and two men injured, one fatally.

French aviators also attacked the railway station at Hattingen and damaged several freight cars. They got away safely, but it was reported they were brought down by gunfire on their return. One aviator was said to have been killed and another captured.

VENIZELOS ADHERENTS ORGANIZE FOR ELECTION LONDON, April 17.—Former members of the Grecian Cabinet, of which Eleutherios Venizelos was Premier, yesterday organized themselves into a committee to conduct the affairs of the Liberal or Venizelos party in view of the forthcoming elections to Parliament, says a Reuters dispatch from Athens.

In a manifesto to the Greek people, the committee says the first duty of the party will be to aid in a solution of the great problem in accord with the patriotic desire, and to show a united front in the electoral campaign. Zavitziolos, who presided, said the retirement of Venizelos has caused a great gap which could only be remedied by the people.

GERMANS AMONG CREW ON TURKISH BOAT LONDON, April 18.—A Chios dispatch to Lloyd's News says there were five Germans among the crew of a Turkish boat.

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AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND, April 17 (via London).—An airship at half-past five on the city of Strassburg, capital of Alsace-Lorraine. Searchlights showed it disappearing in a northerly direction under bombardment of anti-aircraft guns.

Two persons in Strassburg were slightly wounded; otherwise no damage was done by the bombs from the airship.

TURKISH CAMP BATTLESHIPS DESTROY LONDON, April 17.—It is reported from the island of Imbros that two battleships recently entered the Bay of Enos, on the north side of the Gulf of Saros, and shelled and destroyed a Turkish camp. It is said ten warships were in the fleet that approached the