



5000 UNWOUNDED GERMANS GIVE UP

French Advance 11-Mile Line Near Verdun.

FIRST POINTS UNDEFENDED

British Tanks Effective in Attacks on Fortifications North of St. Julien.

INFANTRY TASK IS LIGHT

Air Service of Opponents Unusually Active, Fighting Far Into Night.

PARIS, Aug. 20.—A smashing French victory on the Verdun front is recorded in the official report issued by the War Office tonight. The French have captured the enemy defenses on both sides of the Meuse over a front of more than 11 miles, penetrating the German line at divers points to a depth of a mile and a quarter.

More than 5000 unwounded German prisoners have been taken.

BERLIN, Aug. 20.—(British Admiralty per wireless press.)—Today's official report contains the following: "Outposts" Are Abandoned.

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 defense 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 These were withdrawn yesterday, in accordance with our plans and without disturbance from the enemy.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 front fighting is in full swing.

The German official communication issued this evening follows: "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 Mort Homme. Elsewhere his assaults were repulsed.

Losses Are Heavy. "East of the Meuse the enemy was either completely repulsed before our fighting positions or driven back in counter attacks. French losses were exceedingly heavy."

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 abruptly or fleeing in terror as the heavy leads lumbered onto the stage and "reached for their shooting irons."

Strong Defenses Taken.

As recorded in the official communication, the British captured German defenses 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, that menaced the infantry advance.

It was the dawn when the signal to "go over the top." The British artillery, observing no less of chivalry 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 that had rolled out from one of Hans Andersen's conceptions into the gray morning light that shrouded this battlefield in the cockpit of Europe.

Infantry Finishes Job.

Behind them came the infantry, ready to do the cleaning up of 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 (Concluded on Page 4, Column 1.)

Progress of the War.

WITH the British troops busily engaged in the successful parrying of German counter thrusts against the newly won ground in Flanders, the French and Italians have started monster offensives—the French against the Germans near Verdun and the Italians against the Austrians from the region of Piava to near the headwaters of the Adriatic Sea.

Sharp, decisive blows have gained for the French positions held by the Germans on a front of more than 11 miles, extending from the Avocourt wood eastward across the River Meuse and into the Bois de Chaume, while the Italians, after a bombardment of an intensity never before experienced in that theater, have leveled Austrian defenses, crossed the ruins and also the Isone River, and now are at deadly grips with the enemy along a front of about 37 miles.

Nearly 12,000 prisoners already have been counted by the French and Italians and doubtless this number will be materially augmented when full details of the fighting are at hand. In addition, the Germans and Austrians lost heavily in men killed or wounded and in guns and machine guns captured.

The new territory taken by the French embraces positions which have literally weltered in French and German blood in battles that have waged to and fro since the German Crown Prince started his most costly enterprise—the attempt to take Verdun—which resulted in utter failure as a military maneuver, and cost the lives of tens of thousands of his men.

Notable among the captured positions are the Avocourt wood, two summits of Le Mort Homme, the Corbeaux wood and Champneuville, all of which were held, notwithstanding vicious counter attacks by the Germans, which were broken up by the French fire with heavy casualties to the enemy.

French armor materially aided the infantry in the press forward, swooping low over the German forces and firing their machine guns into the ranks and in flights in the air with German protecting machines, eleven of which were sent hurtling to the ground.

Likewise the Italian flyers are giving their infantry valuable support, more than 200 of them being engaged in attacking with bombs and machine gun fire Austrian troop formations behind the lines. At last accounts the Italian guns were energetically proceeding with the work of destruction of the new positions taken up by the Austrians.

The situation in Flanders and in Northern France is calm as compared with last week, but both the British and the French continue to make sallies at various points and to strengthen the positions won in the recent fighting. The Canadians around Lens daily are biting further into the German line and now have the coal center virtually surrounded, except on the east side. On this sector the Canadian guns have the range and are making almost impossible any movements of the enemy from or into the town. The entente allied airmen still are carrying out raids on German positions in Belgium, many tons of bombs again having been dropped by them. In Roumania the Austro-Germans have forced back the Roumanians on both sides of the Otuz and Trotus valleys, according to the Berlin official communication. In the former sector more than 1500 Roumanians and 30 machine guns fell into the hands of the invaders, while in fighting on the Sereh River 2000 additional prisoners were taken.

GYPSY PRINCESS DEAD

Heir Who Abdicated Throne in Favor of Sister Succumbs.

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Betty Blythe, aged 23, daughter of David Blythe, and said to be the rightful heir to the throne, died today at Chirnside, Scotland.

She waived her claim to the throne in favor of her sister, Esther Faa, who was Queen of the gypsies for many years.

NEUTRALS COUNTED FOES

England Announces Policy Toward Persistent Aids of Germany.

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 assisting Great Britain's enemies should be treated after the war on the same footing as enemy shipping.

TONS OF BEANS POISONED

Montana Board of Health Finds Strychnine; Germans Suspected.

HELENA, Mont., Aug. 20.—Burma beans, found on analysis by the state laboratory at Bozeman to contain strychnine, were ordered destroyed today by the State Board of Health. Tons of them had been shipped into this state and sold to innocent dealers. German agencies are suspected.

SAILOR DEAD TOTALS 6627

England Reports Fatalities in Merchant Marine During War.

GERMAN EMPIRE IS RULED BY PRINCES

Reichstag Nothing But Debating Society.

BUNDESRATH HAS MUCH POWER

Chancellor Is Responsible Only to Emperor.

PEOPLE NOT REPRESENTED

Former Ambassador Gerard Describes and Explains Government of Which Kaiser Is Head.

BY JAMES W. GERARD.

American Ambassador to the German Imperial court, July 23, 1913, to February 1917. (Copyright, 1917, by the Public Ledger Company.)

My commission had read: "Ambassador to Germany."

It is characteristic of our deep ignorance of all foreign affairs that I was appointed Ambassador to a place which does not exist. Politically, there is no such place as "Germany." There are the 25 states, Prussia, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony, etc., which make up the "German Empire," but there is no such political entity as "Germany."

These 25 states have votes in the Bundesrath, a body which may be said to correspond remotely to our United States Senate. But each state has a different number of votes. Prussia has 17, Bavaria six, Wurtemberg and Saxony four each, Baden and Hesse three each, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Brunswick two each and the rest one each. Prussia controls Brunswick.

Reichstag Only a Debating Society. The Reichstag or Imperial Parliament corresponds to our House of Representatives. The members are elected by manhood suffrage of those over 25. But in practice the Reichstag is nothing but a debating society, because of the preponderating power of the Bundesrath or upper chamber. At the head of the Ministry is the Chancellor, appointed by the Emperor; and the other Ministers, such as Colonies, Interior, Education, Justice and Foreign Affairs, are but underlings of the Chancellor and appointed by him. The Chancellor is not responsible to the Reichstag, as Bethmann-Hollweg clearly stated, at the time of the Zabern affair, but only to the Emperor.

Innovation Is Slight. It is true that an innovation properly belonging only to a parliamentary government was introduced some seven years ago, viz., that the Ministers must answer questions (as in England) put them by the members of the Reichstag. But there the likeness to a parliamentary government begins and ends.

The members of the Bundesrath are named by the Princes of the 25 states making up the German Empire. Prussia (Concluded on Page 3, Column 2.)

'GET ALL YOU CAN,' COAL MAN'S MOTTO

NO LIMIT TO PROFIT, INVESTIGATORS ARE TOLD.

Witness Declines to Commit Himself on Ethics of Taking All Traffic Will Bear.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 20.—William S. Scott, president of the Missouri & Illinois Coal Company, which leases coal mines near Belleville, Ill., today testified at the inquiry into the Missouri coal trade that it is the policy of the coal men to make all they can, both in war and in peace. Asked as to his ideas of a fair profit during war, he said:

"There is no limit. We get what we can. Everybody is doing that, including the farmer."

"Do you think that is right?" asked Assistant Attorney-General Gose, of Missouri.

"I am not qualified to say," was the reply. "I am doing all I can to get what I can."

He said the highest price he had obtained recently for coal was \$6 a ton for six-inch Carterville lump.

"How do you justify charging \$6 for something that cost less than \$2 to produce?" asked the Assistant Attorney-General.

"Because you can get it," was the reply. "You are a lawyer and you wouldn't do a piece of work for \$5 if you could get \$10 for it."

RAIN DOES GREAT GOOD

Forest Fire Danger Lessened and Growing Crops Aided at Astoria.

ASTORIA, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—A light rain which visited this section this morning did a vast amount of good in lessening the danger from forest fires, as well as in freshening growing crops.

TILLAMOOK, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Tillamook farmers are rejoicing today in the steady downfall of rain. The drought has for some time threatened to do damage to the cow pastures.

EUGENE WOMAN DROWNS

Mrs. Grace Granger, of University, Victim of Canoe Accident.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 20.—Mrs. Grace Granger, 30 years of age, employed in the administration department of the University of Oregon, while canoeing in the millrace here with her husband and two girl friends, was drowned when the canoe upset when it hit a bridge. Mr. Granger and two men near by attempted to rescue Mrs. Granger.

Mr. and Mrs. Granger were formerly of Ashland, Neb.

MAYOR'S SON GETS "DEAR"

Trophy of Chase Brought Home and Introduced as Bride.

OREGON CITY, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—E. A. Hackett, son of the Mayor, went deer hunting recently. He returned with a blushing bride, the introducing to his parents being the first intimation of the event.

Young Hackett and his bride, who was Miss Minnie Boese, of Boring, Or., were married on July 14 at Stevenson, Wash. The hunting trip was continued as part of their honeymoon.

ARREST EXPLAINS H. H. LEEP MYSTERY

Oregon Youth Held on Double Charge.

ARMY UNIFORMS UTILIZED

"Promotion" Taken as Fancy Happened to Dictate.

SPokane Banker Sued for Divorce

R. L. Rutter Alleged to Have Deserted Spouse.

Complainant Recites That Husband Nagged Her and Found Fault With Home Life.

SPokane, Wash., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Isabel Rutter today filed suit in the Superior Court for a divorce from R. L. Rutter, president of the Spokane & Eastern Trust Company, and president of the Western Union Life Insurance Company.

The complaint filed by Mrs. Rutter's attorneys charges in one paragraph that her husband has deserted her and refused to return to her although she has repeatedly asked him to do so.

It recites that she already has a decree of separate maintenance against him and that he was cruel to her in that he nagged at her, was fault-finding with the home and told her he was tired of home life. Such actions started six years ago and continued until he left her in 1914, she says.

It is set out in the complaint that all property rights of the two, estimated at well over \$100,000, have been settled between them, and that the terms of the agreement on property rights will be presented to the court for approval at the time of the hearing of the case.

DON W. NIX WINS BRIDE

Journal Reporter Surprises Friends by Wedding at Vancouver.

Don Wyle Nix, member of the editorial staff of the Portland Journal, was one of the actors in a Vancouver matrimonial surprise yesterday when he wedded Miss Marguerite St. Clair, of this city.

The wedding was solemnized by Rev. John Niswender, of Vancouver. Mrs. Marie Stier, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, while Charles N. Ryan acted as best man.

The bride has made her home with her sister at the Hotel Venable. Mr. Nix has been with the Journal for the past two years. They will make their home at the Carmelita Apartments.

WAGE INCREASE OFFERED

Striking Mill Workers of Willapa Harbor to Vote on Acceptance.

SEATTLE, Aug. 20.—A 10 per cent increase in wages is being offered to striking mill workers of Willapa Harbor by all the large operators of that district at a meeting of employers and employes in Raymond today. The proposal will be put to a vote by the men.

MOBILIZATION IS CHANGED

Dates for Second and Third Draft Increments Advanced.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Mobilization of the second increment of draft troops was today changed from September 15 to 19 and the third increment from September 20 to October 2. Mobilization of the first increment will be as previously announced September 5.

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Wallace Mines Are Patrolled by Government Troops.

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A HOUSE OF DIRTY CARDS, IT COLLAPSED AT THE FIRST TOUCH.

