

MONS RETREAT MOST CRITICAL MOMENT OF WAR

General French Talks to Frederick Palmer of Campaign — French Fighting Develops No New Characteristics in Men—Tenacity of Army Praised.

(Frederick Palmer, who is at the front in France for the Associated Press, sends the following dispatch) **BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 25.**—It was in the drawing room of the house in which he makes his office that Field Marshal Sir John French, commander in chief of the British expeditionary forces on the continent, received the correspondent today and discussed the military situation. Before the conversation was over the British commander, answering a question concerning the result of the war said: "Indeed, there is no doubt of the outcome. I was never so confident of victory as I am today. I am as confident as General Grant was when he took command of the Army of the Potomac. He kept at it and so shall we."

Shown No Sign of Strain
On a long table before the British commander were a number of maps and reports. Otherwise the man who directs the operations of the British army in France appeared completely disinterested in the details of the different army departments situated in other offices about the town. It was to be observed, however, that the heads of the departments report to Field Marshal French immediately upon a telephone request.

Looking younger than his photographs make him appear, ready and alert, Sir John showed no signs of the strain of the last eight months as he stood before his open grate fire and talked of his campaign and the war.

"What were the most important contributing factors making your retreat from Mons secure against overwhelming odds?" Sir John was asked.

Tenacity of Army
"The dogged tenacity of our little regular army which contested every foot of the ground as we fell back," was the answer.

"Not once did our soldiers lose heart. They understood that we were not defeated, but making a strategic retreat before heavy odds and that all the punishment which they could inflict on the enemy by a cool and stubborn resistance from point to point was no less valuable to the ultimate defeat than if they were advancing.

"Their confidence that their turn to take the offensive would come remained unshaken. Next in importance was the work of our cavalry in its aggressive and alertness in preventing the cavalry of the enemy from getting around us. Our cavalry established a decided superiority over that of the enemy, which was of vital assistance."

Most Critical Moment
"And what do you consider the most critical moment of all your campaign in France?" was the next question put to Sir John French. One would not have been surprised if he had said when his reserves were practically exhausted in the battles of Ypres and Armentieres to save the channel ports. His answer had

(Continued on Last Page)

ONLY ARTILLERY DUELS IN WEST

BERLIN, March 25.—The official communication given out today by the German army headquarters says: "With the exception of unimportant engagements on the heights of the Meuse, to the southeast of Verdun and on Hartmanns-Werkkopf, which still continue, only artillery duels took place along the western front yesterday." "In the eastern arena Russian attacks to the east and to the southeast of Augustow, near Jednorzysk, and to the northeast of Przasnysz were repulsed."

AMERICAN FLAG STOPS MASSACRE OF ASSYRIANS

Situation of American Presbyterian Mission in Northwestern Persia Is Desperate—Turks and Kurds Persecuting and Slaughtering Native Christians—Bishop Hanged.

TIFLIS, March 25.—Telegrams and letters reaching here from Urmiah, in northwestern Persia, describe the situation of the American Presbyterian mission stationed there as desperate. Turkish regular troops and Kurds are persecuting and massacring Assyrian Christians.

Harry P. Packard, the doctor of the missionary station at Urmiah of the board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church, risked his life in a successful effort to prevent a frightful massacre at Geogtapa, where 3000 Assyrians made their last stand. They had fought for three days and all their ammunition was gone. At this juncture Dr. Packard unfurled an American flag and advanced between the lines. His act resulted in the saving of all but 200 of the Assyrians, who had been burned in a church.

Bishop is Hanged
Fifteen thousand Assyrian Christians have taken refuge under the protection of the American mission station, while 2000 are at the French mission. A dispatch received at Tiflis from Urmiah yesterday declared that seventy Turkish regular troops had entered the mission, hanged the orthodox bishop, Mar Elin, and four clergymen and beat and insulted a missionary named Allen. Shortly before the sixty refugees had been dragged from the French mission and executed in spite of the fearful pleas of the nuns.

At Gulpashan the Kurds were particularly cruel. This was the last of a total of 103 Assyrian villages to hold out, and it was occupied a month ago. The Kurds ordered all the Assyrian males into the streets, tied them in groups of five, marched them to the graveyard and killed them barbarously to the last boy. Girl babies and older women were then executed with great atrocity, while the younger women were carried away as slaves.

Twenty Thousand Slain
As a result of the war, 12,000 Assyrians are taking refuge in the Caucasus, some 17,000 are described as in imminent danger at the Urmiah missions, while 20,000 are dead and missing. Furthermore, much property has been destroyed. The Assyrians fought their assailants bravely and as long as they had ammunition they were victorious.

The missionaries are untiring in their efforts to help the people and they are spending money to this end freely. In Urmiah they are disbursing the equivalent of \$400 daily. Disease is prevalent among the refugees.

Former Portland Pastor
NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., March 25.—The missionary named Allen in dispatches from Tiflis today, who was insulted by the Turkish regulars, who entered the Presbyterian mission at Urmiah, Persia, and executed the bishop and four clergymen, is the Rev. E. T. Allen, brother of Mrs. E. V. Lunn of North Yakima. He was for a long time pastor of a Portland, Or., church.

NEW LOVE CULT BRINGS GIRL DEATH

ALLIANCE, O., March 25.—As a result of the death here today of Miss Amy Tanner, 23, B. A. George, alleged to be the head of the "New Love" cult, was taken into custody and ten other persons, five of whom are women, are detained as witnesses pending an examination into the death of Miss Tanner. According to the police, the headquarters of the cult in an elaborately furnished house in the residence district, have been under surveillance of the police and federal authorities for some time. The coroner's jury gave an unofficial verdict that Miss Tanner's death was due to some powerful drug administered before she was removed to a hospital.

IT'S THE LONG REACH THAT PUTS 'EM OUT



The English battleship Queen Elizabeth, which is already in action, is armed with 15-inch guns, which carry thousands of yards farther than the 14-inch guns intended for the Pennsylvania. Also the Elizabeth is the speedier. If the two had a fight the Elizabeth could keep out of range and batter the Pennsylvania to a pulp without any harm to herself.

BRITAIN REFUSES AMERICAN REQUEST TO STATION CONSUL

LONDON, March 25.—The British government has refused the request of the United States that an American consul officer be permitted to take station at the port of Kirkwall, Scotland, to report on American cargo ships detained there.

The reason for the refusal is that a similar request has been denied others interested in shipping detained in the Orkneys. The United States has experienced great difficulty in obtaining information concerning ships detained at Kirkwall for the last three months. Because of Kirkwall's insular location, communication with the Scottish mainland is difficult and ships' officers frequently are unable to communicate with London until their vessels are taken from Kirkwall to some English or other Scotch port to unload the alleged contraband on board.

Until the opening of the war Kirkwall was an unimportant port. Subsequently the United States never had a consular representative there. The north Scottish mainland and the islands are now prohibited areas, from which aliens, both neutral and belligerents, are barred.

"FAIRLY LIVELY" ON WESTERN FRONT

PARIS, March 25.—The French war office this afternoon gave out a report on the progress of the fighting, which reads: "In the Champagne district there was yesterday fairly lively artillery engagements. In the neighborhood of Hill No. 196 we repulsed three German attacks. In the Argonne the German attack at Fontaine failed. At Eparges we repulsed three counterattacks." "On the remainder of the front there was nothing to report."

SWEDISH STEAMER SEIZED BY BRITISH PRIZE CREW

SUNDERLAND, England, March 25, 1:35 p. m.—The Swedish steamer Goosebridge, with a cargo of iron ore, was brought into Sunderland today by a British prize crew. The Goosebridge sailed from Santander, Spain, and her cargo is presumed to have been destined for Germany.

HUNGER FORCED CAPITULATION OF AUSTRIAN FORTRESS

VIENNA, March 25.—The Austrian garrison at Przemysl for 134 days subsisted on provisions to last for eighty days. Przemysl originally was provisioned for the extreme limit which it was thought a modern fortress technically was capable of withstanding a modern besieging army, namely, about six months. Then came the heavy fighting between the Austrian relief army and the Russians about Przemysl. The Austrian forces, whose supply trains failed to reach them, drew on the fortress for large supplies of rations. Furthermore, the great numbers of wounded in these battles and the soldiers stricken down by cholera and other diseases could be sent nowhere else.

Stores Largely Depleted
When railroad communication at last was restored in mid-October, the stores of the fortress had been largely depleted. The railroad was first used to forward urgently needed ammunition. Hence, when the Russian steam roller was unexpectedly set in motion again, driving Field Marshal von Hindenburg westward from the neighborhood of Warsaw and the Austrians from Przemysl, provisions had been coming in for the Galician fortress for only ten days. This gave the defenders rations for eighty days.

Last Act of Defiance
The final sortie of the garrison was a last act of defiance rather than a serious attempt to break through the Russian line, which was virtually impossible for the hunger-weakened forces. There was a bare chance that they would be able to cut a way through and effect a junction with the Austrian army in the Carpathians, and when this failed, General Kusmanek, the Austrian commander received instructions to surrender. When the end came the last crumb had been scraped from the storehouses and horses as well as other animals had been slaughtered for food.

Austrian strategists knew from the outset how long the provisions would last and the campaign in the Carpathians had as one of its aims the relief of Przemysl. But here again a capricious fate intervened. The mildest December known in years in these mountains was followed by bitter weather in January and February, which snowed up the Austrian offensive and left Przemysl to its doom.

AMERICAN FLAG TORN FROM HOUSE IN MEXICO CITY

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Secretary Bryan revealed today that in the original report of the murder of John B. McManus, an American citizen in Mexico City, by Zapata troops, the Brazilian minister had notified the state department also that the American flag was torn from the house and partially destroyed. The secretary said that a request for reparation for the indignity to the flag was sent at the time, but he did not recall what form it had taken. He denied, however, that there had been any request for a salute to the flag.

HORN REMOVED TO BOSTON FOR TRIAL

PORTLAND, Me., March 25.—The removal of Werner Horn to Boston for trial in the federal district court on indictments alleging that he illegally transported nitro-glycerine from New York City to Vanceboro, Me., was ordered by the United States circuit court today. Judge William L. Putnam, who presided, declined to listen to arguments by Horn's counsel that the defendant's attempt to destroy the international bridge at Vanceboro was an act of war and therefore political in character.

AMERICA SHIPPED NO DUM-DUM BULLETS

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The German embassy's second charge that dum-dum bullets are being shipped from the United States to the allies has not been substantiated by an investigation by army ordnance experts and the state department has so informed Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador. The ordnance experts held that the wounds shown in photographs could not have been inflicted by bullets of which specimens were submitted.

POLISH BATTLE DRAWING NEAR DECISION STAGE

Russians Endeavor to Outflank Germans at Ossowetz—Lull on Western Front—Equinoctial Storms Are Raging in Dardanelles—No Decision Reported in Carpathians.

LONDON, March 25.—Advices from Petrograd and Berlin today indicate that the struggle in Northern Poland is drawing toward a decisive stage. The Germans, who have been attempting to pierce the Russian line at Ossowetz are endeavoring to prevent the Russians from advancing to the north and south of the fortress and interposing troops between it and the Prussian border. The official communication from Berlin today states that Russian attacks in this region were repulsed. Petrograd asserts that considerable progress has been made recently and that Russian troops at places are within a few miles of the border.

Another lull has come along the western battle front. There was spirited artillery firing yesterday, but only small movements of infantry were attempted.

Claim Turks Heavy Losers
Dispatches from English sources, based on stories of refugees from the Dardanelles, say that the Turks suffered great losses during the bombardment of March 18, the last general attack by the allied fleet. The fortresses under attack are said to have been reduced in greater part. In Berlin it is reported that the allies lost 1200 men and 134 guns.

Mine-sweepers alone maintain naval activity in the Dardanelles, but as the equinoctial storms in those waters seldom last longer than seven days, a resumption of the bombardment is expected at any time and may possibly take place today. It has been just one week since the last engagement.

In the Carpathians
The battle in the Carpathians has developed into the most important phase of the land fighting now in progress on either front. Reports from Berlin and Petrograd are incomplete and thus far there are no definite indications which side is gaining the upper hand in the encounter which may decide the mastery of the Carpathian passes, the gateway to Hungary.

Estimates of the number of Russians freed by the fall of Przemysl run as high as 190,000, and it is expected that this force will now be sent to the foothills of the Carpathians in western Galicia to assist the Russian army there.

Fortify Adrianople
A dispatch from Athens says the Turks are fortifying positions near Adrianople in fear of an attack by Bulgaria. Heavy artillery has been brought in and a new army is being trained by German officers. The diplomatic situation in the near east is still a source of keen interest to observers in London, and the impression is growing among them that Bulgaria must take the first definite step before any other Balkan state will enter the arena.

DRESDEN'S DESTRUCTION PROTESTED BY CHILE

SANTIAGO, Chile, March 25.—The Chilean government has protested to Great Britain and Germany against the alleged violation of Chilean neutrality involved in the sinking of the German cruiser Dresden. The protests are based on the assertion that the Dresden was in Chilean waters when she was destroyed during a fight with British warships off Juan Fernandez island.

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., March 25.—Preparations for a battle by armies totalling about 12,000 men for possession of Matamoros, the Mexican town opposite here, are in evidence. Five thousand five hundred Villa troops were today within fifty miles of Matamoros, and 3000 more are a short distance outside this zone, according to dispatches reaching here.

KAISER FORCES PEACE ADVOCATE TO GO TO WAR

Dr. Karl Liebknecht, Socialist Member of Reichstag, Who Protested War and Voted Against Budget, Mustered into Regiment and Assigned to Service in Alsace.

BERLIN, March 25.—Dr. Karl Liebknecht, a socialist member of the Reichstag, who has vehemently protested against the war since its beginning, has been mustered into the army as a member of a landsturm regiment and assigned to service in Alsace.

The Copenhagen Politiken printed a story Monday to the effect that Dr. Liebknecht had been ordered to place himself at the disposal of the German military authorities. This action was supposed to have been due to his action in the Reichstag on Saturday in voting against the adoption of the budget. The Politiken stated that Dr. Liebknecht was directed to consider himself under the military law and that he was prohibited from writing articles or attending political meetings except those of the Reichstag and Landtag.

Berlin dispatches received in Antwerp Monday said the socialist party in the Reichstag had given out a declaration severely denouncing the "breach of discipline" committed by Dr. Liebknecht and his colleague, Herr Kuehle, in voting against the adoption of the budget.

Dr. Liebknecht is perhaps the most widely known socialist in Germany. He frequently has protested vigorously against the war and was reputed in December last to be leader of a secret German peace movement. Early in January he appealed to the newspapers and labor leaders to end the conflict. He had previously been disavowed by his party associates in the Reichstag and a speech he made early this month in the Prussian diet resumed in a protest from other parties. Soon after hostilities began it was reported that he had been shot for refusing to do military service.

FRENCH WOMAN SHOT FOR ACTING AS SPY UPON HER COUNTRY

LUNEVILLE, France, March 25.—Marguerite Schmitt, a French woman sentenced to death as a spy after being court martialed, was shot yesterday after the troops of the garrison had been drawn up to witness the execution. By her own admission at her trial the woman accepted two hundred francs (40) from the Germans to enter the French lines and obtain information.

GERMANS FORCED TURKS RESISTANCE

LONDON, March 25.—The Evening Chronicle publishes a dispatch from Bucharest, Rumania, saying the Turkish government recently decided to surrender Constantinople and the Dardanelles to the attacking fleet. The surrender was all but arranged, the Chronicle says, when at the last moment it was blocked by Germany. "The peace party forced a vote at a recent cabinet meeting to send emissaries, one of whom was the American ambassador, Henry Morgenthau, to the Dardanelles to negotiate with the commander of the allied fleet for the surrender of the straits and of Constantinople," says the Chronicle. "Just as everything seemed settled, the German general, Liman Von Sanders, heard of the plan and nipped it with the threat of court martial for all concerned." Ambassador Morgenthau made a visit of two days to the Dardanelles last week.