

Forty-fifth Year.

Daily—Tenth Year.

MEDFORD OREGON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1916

NO. 289

KAISER CAPTURES ARMORED FORT OF DOUAMONT

Northeastern Corner Pillar of Main Fortifications of Verdun Reported Stormed by Germans and Now in Their Possession—Is Four Miles From Verdun.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Germans.

The official announcement is as follows: "The armored fort of Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent main line fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon by the twenty-fourth regiment of Brandenburg infantry and is now firmly in German hands."

Fort Douaumont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from the city of Metz.

Douaumont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. Forts De Sionville, De Tavannes and St. Michel lie directly between the position occupied by the Germans and the city of Verdun.

The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has scored the greatest advance in the assault on the French position. Douaumont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherto been the principal line of progress, being situated four miles east of the Meuse river. The main force of the German attack as indicated by the previous communications, was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

TRY TO DESTROY GERMAN SHIPS IN PORTUGUESE PORTS

LISBON, Feb. 26.—The Portuguese premier stated in the chamber of deputies today that attempts had been made to damage seven of the Teutonic ships requisitioned by the government and that an explosive had been found on the steamship Buckeye of the North German Lloyd company.

The premier added that he considered it in the best interests of Portugal that the existing treaty with Germany be allowed to lapse and said that the Portuguese government was prepared for all eventualities that might arise from the exercise by Portugal of her rights.

An explosive apparatus had been found in the boilers of the steamship Blueow, which would have caused an explosion when the vessel moved. An explosion was prevented, but the steamship was damaged. Minister Costa said he further considered it was in the best interests of the country that the existing treaty with Germany should be denounced and allowed to lapse June 5, 1917.

LYMAN ASKS TO RETURN TO PRISON

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 27.—J. Grant Lyman, under federal court indictment in New York on charges of using the mails to defraud while operating under the firm name, John H. Putnam & Co., today admitted his identity when taken before a United States commissioner for examination.

Lyman expressed a desire to be returned to California, where he is under sentence to serve 18 months on a former charge.

Lyman said: "I was sentenced to prison in California, but would just as soon serve that sentence in the Federal prison at Atlanta, if that would be of convenience to the federal government. My bond has not been forfeited. If I choose to surrender to my bondsmen I have every right to do so, and that is my intention. When I am released from prison the New York authorities can do what they see fit, but not before. Nobody can keep me out of jail if I want to go in."

INCREASE IN WAGES FOR CUDAHY PACKERS

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Feb. 26.—M. R. Murphy of Omaha, general manager of the Cudahy packing plants, made the statement today that the Cudahy and Armour packing companies will immediately advance the wages of employees in all their packing plants 5 per cent. More than 2,000 men struck in the company's plants here several days ago, wanting more pay.

The machine was observed just before dawn. When it became light it disappeared in the direction of the new plant of the Minnesota Steel company on the St. Louis river.

FRENCH FORCES IN CHAMPAGNE CAPTURE FIRST GERMAN LINE

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—The French forces in the Champagne have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Marie-a-Py. The war office statement says the French penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of about 250 yards.

FRENCH FRONT WOEYRE PLAIN ALLEGEDLY BROKEN

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—An official statement issued today says that considerable advances have been made east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun, in the presence of Emperor William.

The war office also announced the capture of the hills southwest of the village of Louvemont and the fortified positions to the east thereof.

Resistance of the French broke down on the Woevre plain along the entire front to Marchoville, south of the highroad from Paris to Metz.

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement says. "The German statement indicates a development of the attack along a wide front south and east of the region north of Verdun along which pressure hitherto has been exerted. The highroad from Paris to Metz referred to runs through Verdun, passing slightly to the southeast. It is crossed at a point about fifteen miles east of Verdun by the German line, bending southward in the salted to St. Michel; Verdun is thus being assailed simultaneously from the north, northeast, east and south-east."

Apparently the Germans are developing an attack similar to that employed frequently with marked success against the Russian fortified positions in the campaign of last summer. Their tactics were to bend back the Russian lines on both sides of the selected point of attack and compel evacuation of the fortress itself.

The town referred to in the German statement as marking the southern end of the portion of the French front which has been broken is probably Marcheville-en-Woevre. This town is just south of the Paris-Metz highway, thirteen miles east of Verdun.

In the Champagne the French made an attack south of St. Marie-a-Py position which they captured February 12. They succeeded in penetrating our first line trenches over a width of 250 yards.

TREE MEMORIAL TO SHAKESPEARE

One Tuesday, March 7, Burbank Day, the Greater Medford club, in conjunction with the Drama League, will plant a tree on the library grounds as a memorial to Shakespeare.

TWO DEMOCRATIC TICKETS IN IOWA

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 26.—Two full democratic tickets may be placed before Iowa voters at the June 5 primary this year, as the result of a decision early today by leaders of so-called progressive democrats to enter a slate of their own.

AEROPLANE CIRCLES ALLIES' ELEVATOR

SUPERIOR, Wis., Feb. 26.—Watchmen guarding big grain elevators containing millions of bushels of wheat for the allies were alarmed early today when an aeroplane, soaring 3,000 feet in the air, circled above the docks for half an hour.

The machine was observed just before dawn. When it became light it disappeared in the direction of the new plant of the Minnesota Steel company on the St. Louis river.

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STANDING ARMY OF 140,000 VOTED BY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The house military committee today voted for a regular standing army of 137,000 men, with a 2 per cent allowance for recruiting, bringing the number up to 140,000, which is slightly more than the war department asked.

Voting began at a proposal for 220,000 men. The number was gradually scaled down, until a proposal for 150,000 men was beaten by one vote.

The committee put through the provision as it was finally accepted by the committee to be incorporated in the bill to be presented to the house.

The war department's estimate for additional officers for the regular army was increased from 768 to 1,000.

The section of reorganizing the National Guard was framed to provide for a maximum strength of 424,000 men, of which 50 per cent must be recruited within two years.

BLUE STEM WHEAT DROPS 11 CENTS

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 26.—April bluestem wheat quotations on the Portland grain exchange plunged downward 11c today on receipt of rumors that Verdun had fallen and in sympathy with drops in mid-western markets.

FARMHAND GIVEN JUDGEMENT FOR BRIDE

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 26.—Louis D. Bates, a farmhand who worked for twenty years on farms owned by the late Edward Howell, and his daughter Jennie with salary, are to be married.

CHAMPAGNE FEINT PRECEDED VERDUN

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Petit Parisien says that the battle now raging before Verdun was preceded February 12 by a feint in Champagne intended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun.

TO ASK ASQUITH OBJECT OF WAR

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Philip Snowden, socialist member of the house of commons for Blackburn, has given notice that he intends to ask Premier Asquith Tuesday whether the British government ascertains from the allies of this nation before the conclusion of the agreement not to make a separate peace what their object was in the war and what they expected in the way of guarantees, territorial concessions, trade and economic opportunities.

GERMANS REPULSED WITH 17,000 LOSSES IN FLANDERS ATTACK

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 26.—The Germans have gathered a considerable number of troops in Flanders and artillery reinforcements have been continuously arriving since December, according to the Echo Belge.

FRENCH ASSERT LINES STILL HOLD ABOUT VERDUN

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Germans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, the war office announces this afternoon.

The German attacks in the region of Douaumont, east of the Meuse, have failed, the war office said, notwithstanding repeated attacks and tremendous slaughter.

ITALIANS EVACUATE DURAZZO, ALBANIA FOLLOWING DEFEAT

ROME, Feb. 26, via Paris.—The report that Durazzo, an Albanian port on the Adriatic sea, had been evacuated by the Italian troops stationed there is confirmed.

An official statement says: "The Italian brigade at Durazzo has been withdrawn and has embarked the Albanian government having left the place, the withdrawal of the Serbian, Montenegrin and Albanian troops from Albania has been completed."

WAR RUMORS SEND WHEAT TUMBLING

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Wheat values broke about 5 cents a bushel today on account of depression in the New York stock market.

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VILLA REPORTED CASAS GRANDES

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MAY DISCUSS ARMAMENT OF MERCHANTMEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The United States Secretary Lansing indicated today, may discuss the question of what properly may be regarded as armament on a merchant ship, if the question is raised.

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