

VILLA'S DEATH REPORTED AT QUERETARO

Mexican War Department Announces It Has Reason to Believe Bandit Slain in Action—Searching Parties Sent to Find Body—Persistent Rumors of Death Reported From Many Sections—One Report Says He Died From Wounds—Carranza's Troops Co-operating in Pursuit.

QUERETARO, Mexico, April 11.—The war department announced today it has reason to believe Francisco Villa had been killed in action, and that searching parties had been sent out to find his body.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Unofficial and unconfirmed reports that Villa is dead reached the Carranza embassy today and were given some degree of credence by officials here.

The reports were represented as having come from Queretaro. General Carranza's provisional capital.

18,545 Troops on Border Official estimates of the number of troops in Mexico and on the border available for an emergency were given at the war department today.

General Scott, chief of staff, announced that 18,545 troops now constitute the border patrol.

The department is in receipt of telegraphic advices dated the 10th from Chihuahua stating that there is no evidence of any troop movements toward the border. It is stated that every available man is operating in the locality of the supposed whereabouts of Villa and that General Gutierrez is giving every proof of sincere co-operation.

Villa Dead and Buried GENERAL PERSHING'S HEADQUARTERS AT FRONT, April 10, via Mexican telegraph to Juarez, April 11.—Renewed reports have been received here by General Pershing that Francisco Villa is dead and buried. These reports are under investigation. Meanwhile the hunt for Villistas is proceeding with renewed vigor with the arrival at the front of General Pershing.

Mexicans who had seen Villa on his flight south said that the bandit looked thin and emaciated a week ago. Reports, however, are conflicting. One fairly good authority stated that Villa was able to walk the first day after he received his wound which indicated that no bones were broken.

Aeroplane today covered several hundred square miles of territory scouting over a country heretofore unexplored by planes.

Mexicans Aiding The Mexicans in this section are well disposed toward the Americans and many of them are bitter against Villa.

The American line of communication is now about 400 miles long. It is again reported that Pablo Lopez, who murdered seventeen Americans last January at Santa Ysabel, is not dead, but wounded and that the Villa lieutenant is trying to escape the Americans.

Reports of friendly co-operation of the Carranza troops continue.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 11.—General Pershing is expected to reach Satevo, forty miles south of Chihuahua tonight, according to a report brought to General Funston today by Lieutenants Barque and Gorrell, who arrived by aeroplane at Columbus today.

DIAZ CONSPIRATORS EXECUTED AT SUNRISE EL PASO, Texas, April 11.—The three leaders of the Diazista plot to seize Juarez and overthrow the Carranzista garrison there last Sunday were executed by the firing squad in Juarez early today. They were Nicholas Chavez, Jose Inez Bernal and Florencio Hernandez. The condemned men confessed the plot before they were executed. Other Mexicans were implicated.

GERMANS REPEL BRITISH ATTACK ON YPRES FRONT

Berlin Satisfied With Progress of Battle on Verdun Front—Total of 35,000 Prisoners Taken in Fifty Days of Battle—Claim Bethincourt Not Evacuated.

BERLIN, April 11.—British troops made a strong hand grenade attack last night after intensified artillery preparation against the German positions south of St. Eloi, near Ypres, but the attack was repulsed and the position is firmly held by the Germans, according to the official statement issued at army headquarters today.

Fighting on both sides of the river Meuse (Verdun) was in progress with great vigor throughout the whole of yesterday, the statement says. The number of un wounded prisoners taken in this sector was increased from 22 officers and 549 men to 35 officers and 1231 men.

35,000 Prisoners Taken Since February 21 the Germans have captured more than 35,000 French in the fighting about Verdun, the Overseas News agency announces today.

East of the Meuse about 25 square kilometers of ground has been occupied, the announcement says.

German newspapers point out that the French now say Bethincourt was evacuated in accordance with plans previously made. Nevertheless it has been ascertained that an order had been issued stating: "This important place must be held in all circumstances." The fact that more than 700 un wounded French prisoners were taken and that the French losses in killed or wounded were far greater is proof that the French plan of evacuation could not be carried out as intended.

Avocourt Destroyed According to the French reports the new line runs from the southern corner of Avocourt wood along the first slope of the Hill No. 294, thence along the southern bank of Forzes brook, passing to the northeast of Hancourt; turning eastward, crosses the Bethincourt-Esnes road at a point south of the junction of that road with the highway to Chateaufort and reaches the Meuse just north of Cumières. The fortifications of the village of Avocourt, which is south of Forzes brook, were destroyed by the German advance of April 9, as reported.

CARRANZISTS SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICAN TROOPS EL PASO, Texas, April 11.—With an official advice for days of the whereabouts of the advance guard of the American cavalry pursuing Francisco Villa, officials of the Carranza government in Juarez sought today to obtain information of the American troops.

Apparently the rush of the American cavalry southwest has been so rapid that it has carried Colonel Dodd and Colonel Brown with their troops far beyond all lines of communication. Army officers at Fort Bliss believe that when the expeditionary commanders get in touch with General Funston they will report that the American troops have engaged the Villistas in battle. Reports that a battle has been fought with Villa bands south of Salvo were current early today, but there was nothing to confirm these reports.

While the American cavalry are combing the country at the far end of the attenuated line of communication there was little apprehension here over their position for it was confidently felt at Fort Bliss that Dodd's men could fight themselves out of any uncomfortable position.

Scouts and refugees with knowledge of the country south of Pajaral say that the American troops will find it peculiarly difficult to operate in any numbers against Villa in the district where he is now fleeing. The Arriola brothers are said to be fortifying the city of Durango, but for what purpose has not been indicated.

LONDON, April 11.—A Reuter dispatch from Athens says the British and French ministers informed President Skoufopoulos of the intention of their governments to land forces from the harbor of Argosini and elsewhere on Cephalonia, one of the Ionian islands a few miles west of the mainland. Assurance were given that the sovereign rights of Greece would be respected.

ALLIES TO LAND TROOPS AT CEPHALONIA

LONDON, April 11.—The first installment of fifteen centimeter howitzers, with ammunition which were ordered in Germany, will arrive in Switzerland during the next few days, according to the Zurich Post, says the Overseas News agency. "The newspaper points out that this is the best answer to reports that Germany intends to invade Switzerland and comments on the fact that German industry not only is able to meet the enormous wants of the German army, but also to supply neutral countries. The Cresset (French) works were unable to supply the guns."

GERMANS SELL SWISS BIG GUNS

FRENCH RESIST SUPREME EFFORT AGAINST VERDUN

Deadman's Hill Bars the Way to Further Advance—Alternative Advances and Retreats—Paris Figures Present Great Attack Concluding Phase of Battle's Nearing an End.

PARIS, April 11.—On the west bank of the Meuse the Germans made an attack last night on Dead Man's hill with liquid fire, advancing from Cordeaux wood. They obtained a footing in a few small elements of trenches, the war office announced this afternoon, but otherwise were repulsed.

East of the Meuse the Germans attacked trenches south of Donaumont village, but were beaten back with considerable losses. There was violent bombardment of Donaumont and Vaux.

The German general offensive against the French fortress of Verdun began Sunday over a 13-mile front is being restricted in the latest fighting to a two mile front on the west side of the river Meuse. Along these 3500 yards of trenches the French thus far not only have succeeded in barring a further advance of the Teutons on the west bank of the river but also in screening their artillery, which is raking every German advance on the east of the river.

Dead Man's Hill The object of the present operations is the now historical Mort Homme or Dead Man's hill, which bars the way of the Germans to a further advance west of the river. The operations began yesterday when two German divisions were launched from Bethincourt and Hancourt against Hill No. 304 on the left of Dead Man's hill, while two divisions attacked at the same time in the direction of Hill No. 295, between Dead Man's hill and Cumières.

The Germans advanced in serried ranks as on Sunday and their proportionate losses are reported to have been quite as great. The fighting lasted all afternoon, with alternative advances and retreat, the little gains of both sides being offset by equivalent losses and at the end of the day the positions were on the whole the same as before the attack.

The Germans are at the foot of Hill No. 295 while the French hold the slope and the summit, which are solidly fortified. From these positions the French poured a stinging fire into the dense ranks of the Germans advancing over ground where in spots they were fully exposed to both machine gun fire and the fire of three-inch guns.

Attacks Repulsed The repeated attacks were thrown back before they succeeded in reaching the barbed wire defenses and the attacks against Hill No. 304 were subject to the same conditions.

No sooner would a company of men leap from their trench than the 3-inch pieces and the machine guns began to bring down the attackers. They never got more than 100 yards from their trench and they lost heavily during the day.

The crown prince's supreme effort for the capture of Verdun, as the military observers characterize the operations which began on Sunday to the west of the Meuse, is spending itself against the stout and intelligent defense of the French. The observers point out that when the assailant realizes that he has failed to attain his objective, he invariably delivers an extended assault with great violence before lapsing into normal trench warfare. Such was the great German attack during the battle of

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STEAMER ELLASTON REPORTED MISSING LONDON, April 11.—Lloyd's reports the British steamship Ellaston is missing and presumably has been sunk. All hands have been picked up. The Ellaston was en route.

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CROWN PRINCE AND HIS ONLY DAUGHTER



This is the latest picture of the crown prince of Germany and his only daughter, Alexandra Irene, who was born April 7, 1915. The crown prince is now with the troops in the fierce fighting around Verdun.

SPAIN ANGERED BY TORPEDOING OF SANT OMERINO

MADRID, April 11.—The owners of the Sant Omerino have been notified that the vessel was sunk by a submarine and that the passengers and crew were given fifteen minutes to leave the ship. Four were drowned. The torpedoing of the Sant Omerino has produced a painful impression on the Spanish press and public.

LONDON, April 11.—A Reuter dispatch from Madrid says that four of the crew of the Spanish steamer Sant Omerino, which is reported to have been sunk by a torpedo, were drowned and that the remainder have been landed at Saint Jean de Luz.

A dispatch from Biarritz yesterday said that a Danish steamship had landed thirty-six survivors from the Sant Omerino, several of them women, at the small French promontory of Sohoa, near Saint Jean de Luz, and added that four of the passengers, all Spaniards, had been drowned. The Sant Omerino was a vessel of 2945 tons gross and had been trading between Liverpool and United States ports.

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DUAL ENLISTMENT MAY BE ILLEGAL WASHINGTON, April 11.—In a special report to congress the judge advocate general of the army today expressed "grave doubts" as to the validity of the dual enlistment system proposed in the senate army bill. The house bill provision, however, for drafting National Guardsmen into the regular army in war time, the judge advocate general held would obviate some of the legal difficulties which would confront enlistment to the state and federal governments at the same time.

Secretary Baker transmitted the judge advocate's views adding that he had not had opportunity to study the subject himself. The point is a hot one in the army reorganization bill.

ITALIAN STEAMER UNIONE TORPEDOED LONDON, April 11.—The Italian steamship Unione is reported by Lloyd's to have been torpedoed.

There are three Italian steamships Unione. The largest, of 2307 tons, was engaged in trade between Italy and South America.

VILLAISTAS KILL JOURNALIST IN MINACA RAID

David Bruce, American Newspaper Man and Herman Blankenburg, a German, Ruthlessly Slain by Bandits—One's Head Split Open by Sword and Other Shot in His Room.

PERSHING'S CAMP AT FRONT, April 10, by aeroplane to Columbus, N. M., April 11.—The cheapness in which the Villistas hold human life was brought out pointedly here today by J. H. Locke, an American of Minaca, who escaped from that city the night of March 28, when Herman Blankenburg, a German and David Bruce, an American, were killed by the bandits. Locke described to General Pershing the utter recklessness with which these two men were slain.

Locke found on Bruce indicated that he had adopted a pen name in Mexico while trying to sell magazine stories, and that his friends expected him to write something about Villa. The letters gave his right name as Don McGregor. He was from Minneapolis, Denver and Chicago.

Story of Tragedy "The night of March 28," said Locke, in telling his story, "we three were in my hotel. Early in the morning, before daylight, we heard shooting, and soon Carranza soldiers said Villistas were attacking the town. This was the same night that Villa attacked Guerrero and San Isidro. Two soldiers remained behind guarding the room where the Carranza commander resided in our hotel and which he left at the shooting to take command of his troops. I told the other two, who came to my room, that we must get out immediately before daylight. Blankenburg said he would not leave, that he was a German with nothing to fear. Bruce seemed to be in fear, but decided not to risk going out. So I started alone.

"The Villistas were riding through the streets fighting Carranza troops when they encountered them and shooting wildly the rest of the time. The moon was in its last quarter so that there was considerable light to see by. I carried my pistol ready, but never had to use it. By a freak of good fortune I passed through the entire band of Villistas without one of them catching sight of me.

Killed by Villistas "The next day I hid out and two days later a Mexican friend brought me news of the deaths of Blankenburg and Bruce.

"They had stayed together in my office, which faced the street, until about 8 in the morning. The thick adobe walls protected them. Then Blankenburg decided he would go to the hotel kept by Richard Heimpel, another German. Taking his valise, Blankenburg stepped into the street. Just at that moment a Villista rode past. Without warning this Villista struck Blankenburg over the head with his sword, splitting it halfway to the neck. As Blankenburg fell the Villista shot him in the face.

"All this occurred before the door of my room had been closed so that the Villista after striking Blankenburg, looked up and saw Bruce sitting in my room. The soldier raised his rifle and fired, killing Bruce with two shots through the breast.

"The Mexicans were afraid to bury either of the foreigners while Villa's men remained in town. Meanwhile the pigs in the street were threatening to mutilate Blankenburg's body beyond recognition. A Mexican who knew Blankenburg had his little boy

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CABINET AWAITS GERMAN NOTE UNDERSEA CRISIS

Germany's Position Understood to Be That No German Submarines Attacked Sussex and That She is Blameless in Attacks on Englishman, Manchester Engineer, Eagle Point and Bernard.

BERLIN, April 11.—The German government's reply to the American inquiries regarding the steamship Sussex and four other vessels which have been sunk or damaged, was delivered today to the American embassy.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—President Wilson and the cabinet met today without any new information on which to act in the submarine issue. Secretary Lansing reported that he expected to receive soon a dispatch from Ambassador Gerard giving the results of Germany's investigation into the destruction of the Sussex and other cases.

When the cabinet meeting broke up it was indicated that the president and the cabinet were still thinking about the destruction of ships since Germany gave her last assurances and it still appeared that whatever the United States might do would be based largely upon that feature.

Secretary Lansing said no decision had been reached on which an announcement could be based.

Secretary Lansing was able to inform the president and the cabinet of the essential points of Germany's contention as a result of several confidential messages received from Mr. Gerard.

Germany's position is understood to be that none of her submarines attacked the Sussex and that she is blameless in the attacks on the Englishman, Manchester Engineer, Eagle Point and Berwindale.

It is unknown whether or not Germany admits firing a torpedo at the Patria.

POISONED GIRL AND SHOT HIMSELF WALLA WALLA, Wash., April 11.—Verdicts of suicide were today returned by the coroner in the case of Mary Tawa, eighteen, and her step grandfather, C. M. Frazier, both of Tappanish, Wash., whose bodies were found yesterday in a local hotel.

The girl, it was discovered, died from poison. The man had shot himself, muffling the report of the weapon with a blanket. The girl, medical men testified, had been criminally assaulted.

Miss Tawa had been attending school here. Her father, living in Ellensburg, Wash., had strongly objected to Frazier's attentions to her, and in a letter found among her effects he wrote of a dream in which he saw his daughter assaulted and killed by Frazier.

No inquest was held in the case of Mary Tawa, the young woman who committed suicide Sunday by taking poison.

ORDER DISSOLVING ROCK ISLAND COMPANY NEWARK, N. J., April 11.—An order dissolving the Rock Island holding company of the Rock Island railroad system, and in receiver's hands, was granted here today by Vice Chancellor Howell. The vice chancellor also signed an order whereby the receiver, Chauncey G. Parbur, will turn over to Jacob M. Dickinson, receiver for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railway company, certain assets of the Rock Island company and receive in return \$20,000 in cash and \$15,000 in demand notes.

Receiver Dickinson is also to withdraw by direction of the court a claim for \$1,000,000 on the Rock Island company which was disallowed by Receiver Parker.