

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD OREGON, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917.

NO. 16

9000 TEUTONS, 40 GUNS TAKEN BY BRITISH

VIMY RIDGE CAPTURED BY CANADIANS

British Offensive Between Lens and St. Quentin Still in Progress and More Successful Than at First Supposed—Strategical Positions Are Taken Which Will Force German Retreat All Along Extended Line—Drive Made in Snow Storm.

LONDON, April 10.—The British offensive between Lens and St. Quentin with which the spring operations have been opened and which is still in progress has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated.

General Sir Douglas Haig today reports that yesterday's captures exceeded 9000 men, while forty guns fell into the hands of his troops.

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy ridge, even its eastern slopes having been cleared of Germans.

These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position, whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai.

With the capture of the famous ridge the British made a considerable stride along the road to Douai, while the capture of the high ground north-west of St. Quentin tightens the chain which the Anglo-French forces are drawing around that town.

A German diversion southeast of Ypres, according to General Haig's report met with no success.

Correspondents at the front report the fighting continuing keenly throughout last night with the British offensive gradually extending northward, there being fighting this morning in the direction of La Bassée.

Some 150 officers are among the prisoners already taken, these including five battalion commanders. Although forty guns captured is the official count thus far, the number is expected to reach three figures, while quantities of trench mortars, bomb throwers, machine guns and ammunition also have been captured.

The Germans destroyed great quantities of supplies at the last minute to prevent their capture.

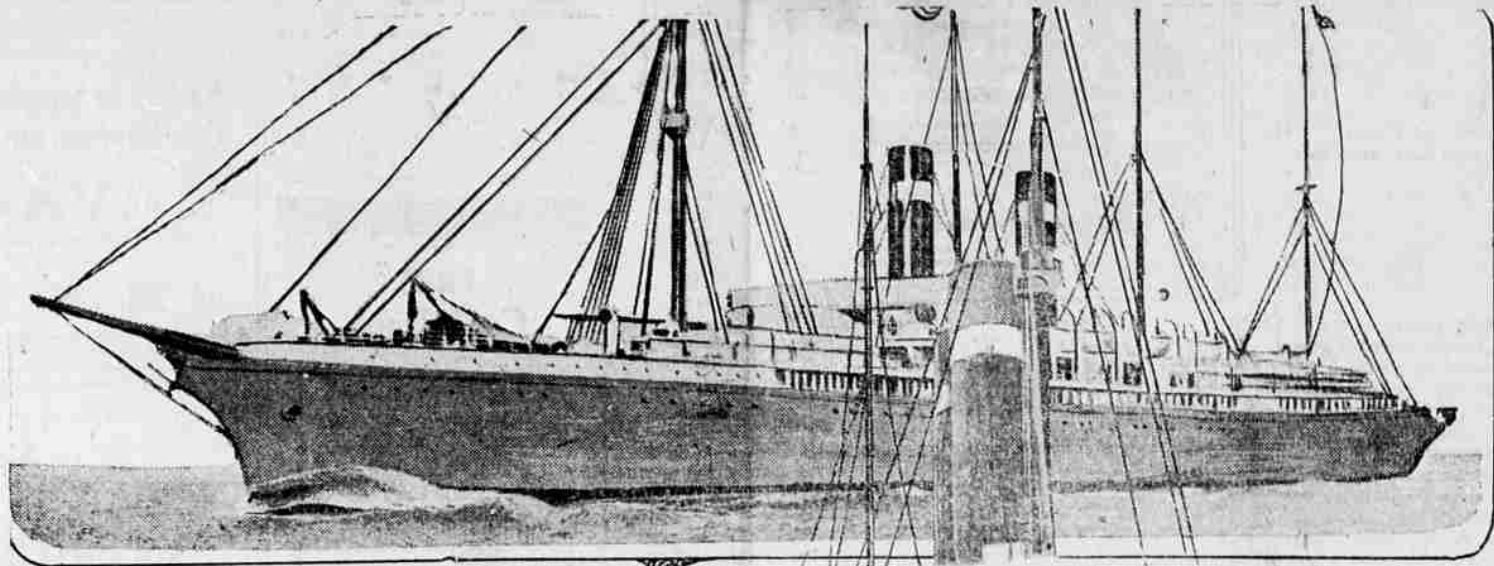
The weather continues bitterly cold, with snow flurries, but the British forces are clad in sheepskins and are kept well fed.

Over 9000 Prisoners.

LONDON, April 10.—It is officially reported that the British forces captured over nine thousand prisoners and more than forty guns in yesterday's operations.

Near St. Quentin the Germans have been driven from the high ground (Continued on Page Two.)

AMERICAN LINER NEW YORK, WHICH STRUCK A MINE OFF LIVE RPOOL BAR, BUT SUCCEEDS IN MAKING PORT SAFELY WITH A LL ABOARD.



AMERICAN LINER NEW YORK HITS MINE, LIVERPOOL

No Casualties Reported—Vessel Reaches Liverpool and Docks Safely—Little Damage Reported and All Passengers Safe—Vessel Carried Navy Gun.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The American liner New York struck a mine at 7:40 p. m. last night five miles off Liverpool bar. No casualties were reported. The vessel later proceeded to Liverpool.

Consul Washington at Liverpool, reporting the incident to the state department today, said: "The American liner New York struck a mine 7:40 p. m. last night five miles off Liverpool bar. Company reports passengers landed at Liverpool except four who are still on the ship. No casualties. Vessel proceeded under own steam and is now (one o'clock) entering her dock."

LONDON, April 10.—The New York docked safely at Liverpool at 1 p. m. (English time) and all passengers are safe, according to a cablegram received here today by the American line. The damage to the vessel was small, the message stated.

Fifty-Eight Passengers. NEW YORK, April 10.—The American liner steamship New York left this port on March 29 for Liverpool with fifty-eight passengers and mail. The passengers included seven American citizens. She carried a naval crew of gunners and was armed. The ship's crew of 234 men included 144 Americans.

The American citizens who were passengers on the New York, with their addresses given when passage was secured were: John M. Curtis, Mrs. Maude Augusta Dowling, and R. R. Gamble, New York City; Archer G. Jones and Mrs. Jones, Richmond, Va.; Charles E. Gale, Philadelphia, and Captain Lawrie, Elizabeth, N. J.

The New York is commanded by Captain W. J. Roberts. The gun crew was in charge of a naval lieutenant. The vessel, of 10,798 tons gross, was the third American passenger ship to leave armed from a United States port.

Damage is Small. The mine came in contact with the (Continued on Page Two.)

CENTRAL POWERS ALL TO FOLLOW GERMANY'S LEAD

War Between Austria and United States Expected to Follow Break in Diplomatic Affairs and Bulgaria and Turkey Believed Ready to Break Diplomatically Also.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—War between the United States and Austria-Hungary seemed practically certain today following the break in diplomatic relations. President Wilson, however, was believed to have no intention of forcing it by asking congress to declare that a state of war existed unless some future overt act is committed.

Bulgaria to Follow. Intentions of Bulgaria and Turkey were not known today, but officials generally believe they also would break relations eventually.

Arrangements for the departure of Austrian embassy officials were being made at the state department today by Swedish Minister Ekengren, who will take over Austrian interests here. Early official word was expected concerning plans for withdrawal of American embassy staff from Vienna.

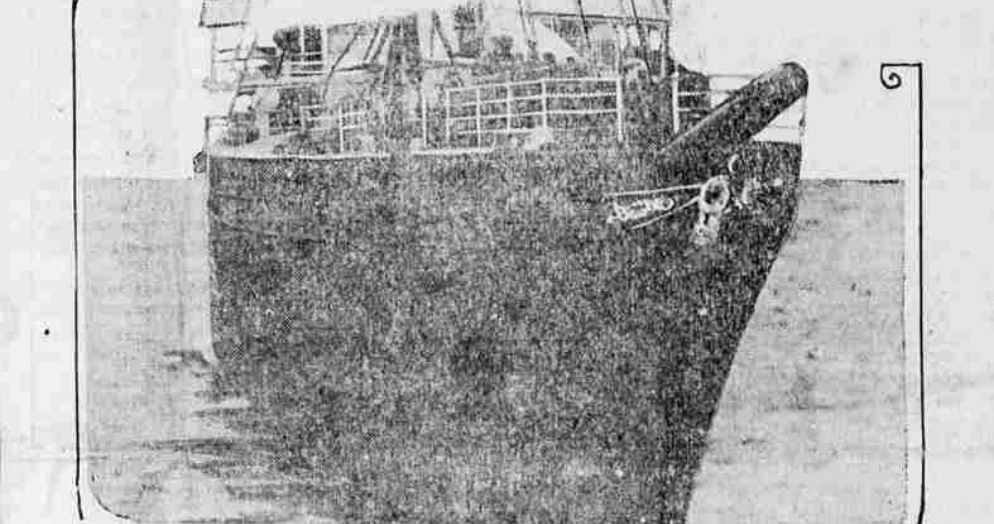
A statement given out by the state department disclosed that ten days ago Austria notified the United States that a diplomatic break would occur if the United States entered war with Germany.

Austria's Farewell Note. WASHINGTON, April 10.—Austria's note to American Charge Grew at Vienna, severing diplomatic relations with the United States because of this country's declaration of war with Germany and offering every facility for the return of American officials in Austria, was made public at the state department today with an official statement as follows:

"The following dispatch dated April 8th from American charge d'affaires, Vienna, has been received by the state department: "Minister for foreign affairs has just informed me that diplomatic relations (Continued on page six.)

\$50,000 FOR CRATER LAKE HIGHWAY WORK

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The sundry civil bill, reported to the senate today, contains appropriations for the continuation of the Portland postoffice, \$365,000; completion of Roseburg postoffice, \$20,000; roads in Crater Lake, \$50,000; protection of Oregon & California railroad grant, \$25,000; Umatilla irrigation, \$157,000; Klamath, \$239,000.



BRAZIL BREAKS OFF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

RIO JANEIRO, April 10.—Brazil has recognized the new government of Russia.

LONDON, April 10.—Diplomatic relations between Brazil and Germany have been broken off, according to the Evening News.

RIO JANEIRO, April 10.—The official report regarding the sinking of the Brazilian steamship Parana, which the government has been waiting before taking definite action toward Germany, is believed to have been received today from the legation in Paris. It is expected the government this evening will sever relations with Germany. Switzerland will take charge of Brazilian interests at Berlin.

The minister of marine has received from the commander of the Brazilian destroyer Alagoas which is stationed at Deslerro, a report that signals are being exchanged between Germans on the coast and ships cruising in Brazilian waters. The minister will transmit this report to President Braz.

RIO JANEIRO, April 10.—A note under the title of "German militarism at home," takes up the question of the German rifle societies in the south of Brazil. It denounces these organizations for their affiliation with the League of German Marksmen of Nuremberg, which, it says, gives them an undeniably military character. The paper declares that Brazil should take warning in time.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF WAR RESIGNS

AMSTERDAM, April 10.—The Vienna evening papers announce that Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary has accepted the resignation of General Ritter Von Krobatin, Austro-Hungarian war minister.

ATTACK MADE UNDER BLINDING SNOW SQUALLS

British Press Charge All Along Line From Cambrai to Lens—Much Booty Is Taken—Many Villages Captured—Aircraft Direct Fire Against Trains.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 10.—Under blinding snow squalls with intermittent flashes of sunshine, the British pressed their attack against the Germans today all along the line from a point south of Cambrai to the vicinity of Lens. So much booty was taken in the first rush of this new assault that it has not all been reported, but it is said a large number of guns were captured.

Yesterday's fighting and gains far surpassed the first days of the battle of the Somme last July. The Canadians today commanded the Vimy ridge and are reported to be well beyond it at some points.

More villages were captured today in the direction of Cambrai and the fighting there is intense.

Aircraft Assist. Clearing weather yesterday afternoon prompted the airplanes to detect German trains moving toward the railroad, apparently for a counter attack on Vimy ridge. This fact was reported to the artillery and all long range guns for ten miles around were concentrated suddenly on the indicated point in what probably constituted a new record for long distance barrage fire with heavy guns. Thus the plans for a counter attack were absolutely destroyed before the reserve troops could detrain.

The British casualties have been light, due largely to the splendid artillery covering.

Men who are walking back to the hospital stations from the forward moving front give glowing accounts of how the Germans are being "done" (Continued on page six.)

ROOSEVELT ASKS PRESIDENT ABOUT GOING TO EUROPE

WASHINGTON, April 10.—Colonel Roosevelt called on President Wilson at the white house today and was received in the executive mansion.

Colonel Roosevelt was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth.

On departing from the white house after half an hour's conference with the president, Colonel Roosevelt gave out a statement which in part follows:

"I am heart and soul for the principle of universal military training. I would favor it if it was made to raise three million men. I am for both universal obligatory training and service. Call it conscription and I will say yes. You cannot frighten me by any name.

"The decision that I ask permission to raise would be made up of men who would not be taken under conscription. They would be over 25 years of age or of the expected classes under 25."

Several hundred persons gathered outside the white house gates and cheered Roosevelt as he left.

MARINE RECRUITING TO BE SPEEDED UP

Telegraphic orders were received from Portland Tuesday noon by Sergeant J. E. Brooks in charge of the U. S. marine corps recruiting station at Medford, to speed up recruiting for that corps.

"Speed up recruiting to the utmost," read the telegram from Capt. L. P. Pinkton, in charge of the Oregon recruiting for the marines, "to impress all men for the urgent immediate need for thousands of men to reinforce the marines at the front. We must have 4000 men at once. Accept minors over 17 with parents consent."

100 PERISH IN MUNITION EXPLOSION

At Least 100 Dead, 200 or More Injured by Blow-Up in Great Munition Plant at Eddystone, Pa., Owned by Russian Government—Suspect Explosion Work of Alien Enemies—Ruins Catch Fire—Victims Mostly Girls.

CHESTER, Pa., April 10.—At least 100 persons, mostly girls, were killed and two hundred or more injured by an explosion today in the great munitions plant at Eddystone, Pa., near here, owned by the Russian government. There is a suspicion that the blast was not due to accident.

The first explosion occurred soon after ten o'clock in the pellet room of the shrapnel building where about 100 girls were putting the finishing touches on shells. In a building adjoining, approximately 30,000 shells were stored. A second explosion demolished the structure.

The ruins caught fire, but the firemen, called from surrounding towns, extinguished the fire after two hours work. Meanwhile charred bodies were being pulled from the wreckage and injured persons taken to Chester, a mile away. The two main hospitals of the city were soon filled and others injured were taken to an armory and to a frame tabernacle recently erected here for religious services.

Owned by Russia.

The plant was originally constructed soon after the European war started by the Baldwin Locomotive interests. Recently it was taken over by the Russian government which has been employing 10,000 workers.

The place has been thoroughly guarded night and day and after dark immense searchlights made every portion of the ground as light as day. In addition, secret service men and detectives worked in the plant disguised as munition makers. There have been whispers of a plot to destroy the plant.

At one undertaker's there were 80 bodies, 79 being those of girls.

Thousands of girls were employed at the plant, most of them coming from Philadelphia, ten miles away. They were attracted by the high wages paid.

Several Explosions.

The first explosion originated in the structure known as the 10-F building. Immediately there was another explosion in the old F building adjoining. These two structures were destroyed. About 400, mostly women and girls, worked in these buildings.

At 1 p. m. firemen, policemen and others were still dragging bodies from the wreckage. Shells were found scattered about the scene for two blocks.

Cause Incendiary.

Basil Greenko, a Russian inspector in the billet department, who was injured, said there was no powder in the loading room and no fire. "I was standing near one of the tables, when from under the door of the loading (Continued on Page Two.)

HALF MILLION LOSS BY ELEVATOR FIRE

MINNEAPOLIS, April 10.—Two grain elevators were destroyed by fires believed to have been of incendiary origin here early today. The total loss will be nearly \$500,000, it was estimated, fully insured. National Guardsmen patrolling the district reported that in both instances several explosions were heard in the structures before the flames were discovered.

MARTIAL LAW RULES GUATEMALA

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, April 10.—Martial law has been declared in Guatemala. The action was taken on information of disturbances along the Mexican and Salvadoran frontiers, supposed to have been created with German assistance.

HERBERT NUNN HIGHWAY ENGINEER

SALEM, Ore., April 10.—Herbert Nunn, a Portland civil engineer, was appointed state highway engineer by the highway commission here today. Nunn's salary will be \$3,600 a year and he will resume his duties immediately.