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GERMAN BATTERIES MAY DRIVE DEFENDERS OUT

Teuton Shells Have Crumbled Trenches and Wrecked Many Batteries On Hill 304—French May Be Forced To Evacuate This Stronghold—Plan To Take Bethincourt and Smother Lines to the West—Crown Prince Sacrifices Thousands In Vain Attempt at Verdun

London, April 4.—Massed German batteries on three sides of Bethincourt are giving French positions a terrific bombardment today, and it is feared the defenders will soon be forced to evacuate their strongholds. French successes at Vaux village and the surrounding country were not sufficient to offset the German gain on a two mile front northwest of Verdun. French positions west of the Meuse are believed to be seriously endangered. A heavy artillery battle continued during the whole of yesterday on the entire sector northwest of Verdun. For a week the Germans have been shelling Hill 304. It is the keystone of the outer defenses in that district. Teuton shells have crumbled its trenches and wrecked the French batteries stationed there.

Indications are that the Germans plan to take Bethincourt and smother French lines to the west under an overwhelming attack, forcing the French to retire to the shelter of the first permanent fortifications of Verdun, near Esnes.

French gains yesterday near Vaux confirmed military observers in their belief that the crown prince will not be able to take Verdun from the northeast. He has sacrificed thousands of men and made no important progress on that side since the capture of Douaumont.

Dispatches from the front said large forces of Germans were noted on the British front in Flanders and northern France. Since beginning their smash at Verdun the Germans have depleted their armies elsewhere to aid the principal offensive but the large force opposite the British has not been disturbed lest General Sir Douglas Haig's men seize the opportunity for an allied drive.

Paris, April 4.—

Germans heavily shelled French positions northwest of Verdun during the night, particularly Malancourt and Avocourt, official announcement declared today. There were no infantry attacks.

West of the Meuse the French batteries kept up a continuous fire from Douaumont to Vaux village. In the Argonne forest also French guns were busy. East of Le Prieux woods French infantry dispersed strong German reconnoitering parties.

Holland Refuses Demand.

Berlin, April 4.—Holland has flatly refused the allies' informal request that its German frontier be closed as an aid to the campaign of "starvation," it was reported today.

There is no doubt that developments at the allied military conference in Paris inspired recent Dutch warlike activity, according to belief here. Allied ministers at The Hague presented formal "frustrations" to the Dutch foreign office.

Queen Wilhelmina replied by summing her parliament and counselling all army fortitudes, it was reliably stated. No formal demands have been made yet.

Several sources reported that the Dutch minister of agriculture ordered an accounting of all foodstuffs and grains in the Netherlands.

ABE MARTIN



Dear Moots, th' trusted treasurer o' th' Fairy Ghetto screen theater, vialated his neutrality 'day by taking French leave. Th' leadin' mystery in ever' neighborhood is how some folks git in th' newspapers so much.

Another Zeppelin Raid Made On England

Berlin, by wireless to Sayville, L. I., April 4.—Zeppelins again raided the southeast coast of England last night and dropped explosive bombs on the fortifications of Great Yarmouth, the admiral announced today. The Zeppelins returned in secrecy, although they were subjected to a heavy shelling by the British.

Tennant's statement was made in connection with an announcement that the new air defenses of the British Isles were satisfactory to the government. He mentioned the destruction of the Zeppelin LZ-12 and confirmed reports of three sky raids having been repelled during the past month.

London failed to report any Zeppelin raids last night. This attack is the fourth within as many days.

ALL NATIONS KNOW OUR SECRET CODE

American Foreign Ministers Protest Against Its Further Use

(By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Berlin, April 4.—Ambassadors Gerard and Penfield and Minister Van Dyke at The Hague have joined in a protest to the state department against the continued use of the present American diplomatic code. The state department at Washington, replying to a recent United Press dispatch from Berlin stating that the United States secret code was known to several of the European belligerents, insisted that secret dispatches could still be sent.

"That is what the department always says," said an American official today, fully in touch with the situation. "You'll find the code will not be changed until it is too late."

It was learned today that an American code book was stolen from an attaché of the American minister to the Balkans shortly before the outbreak of the war. Secret service men tried for weeks to trace it before the loss was communicated to Washington. It is not known what belligerent possesses this volume, but the American envoys are convinced that every important European power can read not only the diplomatic but the naval secret code.

About seven months ago, an official mail pouch, carrying a highly important secret to the navy department from an observer in Germany was opened after it left London. The secret report was unsealed and when it reached Washington showed much handling. In many of the foreign embassies and legations, English, French, German and other foreign attaches have acted as American code experts. It is quite possible that several men who have handled the American diplomatic code are now in the employ of European governments.

Bethlehem Steel Wants To Be Real Good Dog

Washington, April 4.—Before the house naval committee today, representatives of the Bethlehem Steel company made a final effort to prevent recommitment of the government armor plate bill being voted.

President Grace promised that, if the United States should be involved in war or threatened with war, his plant would furnish products at "any price the government chooses to pay." He further asserted his factories would run 24 hours a day, if necessary, to supply federal requirements for armor plate. A promise to manufacture armor plate indefinitely at any price the trade commission might fix was likewise made.

This Issue Caused One War Do British Want Another?

(United Press staff correspondent.)

Washington, April 4.—A sharp issue between the United States and Great Britain confronted the cabinet today as a result of the British government's refusal to liberate Germans taken from the American liner China on the high seas.

The issue which has come to light again is the same that has been disputed for more than a century. It was partly responsible for one war between this country and the British.

A. N. BUSH MAKES GIFT OF TRACT TO CITY FOR A PARK

"Bush's Pasture", Beautiful 50-Acres of Woodland, Donated Public

NO RAILROAD MAY GET RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH

City Council Accepts Gift, But No Transfer Will Be Made For Some Time

The gift of the fifty acre tract known as Bush's Pasture to the city of Salem as a city park was accepted by the city council last night and it is freely estimated that Salem will in time have one of the largest and most beautiful city parks of any town in the Willamette valley. The gift was made by A. N. Bush, who wishes the tract of land to remain intact as a memorial to the late Asabel Bush and the offer was made by Attorney George G. Dingham in behalf of the Bush estate.

A scenic winding boulevard will skirt the park from Mission street at a point about the east end of the present stone wall, which bounds the Bush premises, and extending southerly and following the hill. The remainder of the tract lying east of the boulevard is to be the park proper.

By the specifications the tract is to remain in the condition it is at present during the lifetime of Miss Bush. No streets, alleys or thoroughfares are to be laid out across the tract, but this restriction will not apply to park walks and drives. Also the city is to pledge itself that no franchise for a steam, electric or street railway will ever be granted across the premises or across any street leading to the premises in such manner as to permit a right of way to be condemned across the land, and also that no franchises shall be granted for railways on streets or alleys laid out on the unconverted portion of the tract during the lifetime of Miss Bush. This is not intended to prevent a franchise being granted on Mission street paralleling the street or paralleling the boundaries of the tract outside the park, but is to include the park and boulevard.

As stated in the offer made the city the purpose of the gift is to maintain the tract of land intact east of the proposed boulevard as one compact body, and during the lifetime of Miss Bush to prevent a franchise being granted on Mission street paralleling the street or paralleling the boundaries of the tract outside the park, but is to include the park and boulevard.

Any violation of the terms by the city shall work as a forfeiture of the conveyance.

A MYSTERY OF THE SEA

San Francisco, Cal., April 4.—A mystery of the sea may be solved when the "Santal James" of this harbor enters San Francisco bay this afternoon.

The old square rigger, bound from Shanghai to Seattle, was found apparently helpless off Point Reyes by the steamer Bear. Her ensign was flying upside down.

The steamer passed a line to the Tugboat Hogan and took her in tow. Wireless reports from the Bear failed to explain what had happened aboard the sailing ship.

KILLED MOTHER AND SELF

Spokane, Wash., April 4.—Leaving a note saying that he would not see his mother taken to an asylum, and that he wanted to "die with his boots on," William Flint, aged 33, shot and killed his mother, aged 63, and then shot himself. The tragedy occurred at a lumber camp ten miles north of Spokane. The bodies were discovered by William Flint, Sr., when he returned from work.

THIRTY 'GOOD MEXICANS'

San Antonio, Texas, April 4.—Thirty Villistas were killed in a battle with American forces under Colonel Brown of the Tenth cavalry, Brigadier General John J. Pershing announced in his official dispatches to Major General Fred Funston. There were no American casualties.

Pershing stated Brown and one squadron of the Tenth encountered Villistas east of Bachiaba. Pershing's information came from native sources. He said the fight occurred April 1 and that the Villistas were surprised.

ENGLAND INTERFERES WITH PARCEL POST

Intimates It Will Continue To Do So Despite American Objections

(By Robert J. Bender, United Press staff correspondent.)

Washington, April 4.—A dearth of definite information about recent German submarine activities, which threatened to bring about a diplomatic rupture between America and the Kaiser, was faced by the cabinet when it met today.

Affidavits from American witnesses were reported shortly. Secretary Lansing reported he had unofficially advised that survivors of the steamer Manchester Engineer-sinking claimed they saw a periscope. Information with regard to the wrecking of the steamer Eagle Point made Lansing believe it advisable for Ambassador Gerard to inquire formally concerning it.

The cabinet members had not received from their position that no step would be too drastic if it were proved that German submarines attacked the channel steamer Sussex, the liner Englishman and other vessels which carried Americans. They feel, however, that a complete settlement of the whole question in accordance with American demands may prevent an open break with Germany.

The cabinet was expected to consider its next step in the negotiations with Great Britain growing out of English seizure of United States mails. Lansing presented the British government's denial that treaty rights had been violated. This statement emphasized Great Britain's intention to continue opening American parcel post packages in the search for contraband.

SLAUGHTER REFUSES TO OCCUPY PULPIT

Continues As Pastor But Will Not Act Until Charges Are Disproved

Chicago, Cal., April 4.—Determined to continue as pastor of his church here, but resolved never to set foot in his pulpit until five immorality indictments against him are disposed of, Rev. Madison Slaughter announced today he would conduct the Wednesday night prayer meeting as usual and meet all members of his congregation face to face.

He does not appear to be discouraged by the fact that the jury in his first trial on a charge of attacking Gertrude Lamson, aged 15, disagreed, voting 8 to 4 for conviction. His second trial will begin one week from today, and he is busy making preparations for it.

The same attorneys will probably represent him, but it is not known whether a public collection will be taken up in the church to defray expenses. Slaughter says he will fight until the public realizes he is innocent. Returning to Chicago after the jury was dismissed Slaughter left the train in the outskirts and went immediately to his home in his automobile, thus avoiding a crowd which had gathered at the station.

DOES NOT WANT OUT

San Francisco, April 4.—Freedom has no appeal for Ng Lin Poo, who is anxious to stay in jail that he will make a legal fight if necessary to prevent being turned loose.

Ng Lin Poo, Chinese, who was arrested on a grand larceny charge, fears his enemies will kill him if liberated, and when Judge Griffin was preparing to discharge him he begged so eloquently for the privilege of staying in jail that his honor granted the request.

HE MARRIED ANYWAY

Oakland, Cal., April 4.—A little matter of amputated foot couldn't interfere with Ludwig Deck's honeymoon. A month ago he backed off his own foot when it was caught in the machinery of a dredger. He refused to postpone his wedding day, and went to the ceremony on crutches.

OFFICER SHOWS HOW ANY NATION COULD INVADE US

Says German General Staff Has Plans of Invasion Worked Out

TO LAND 400,000 GERMAN VETERANS IN TWO WEEKS

Would Make Main Attack at Boston and Another at Chesapeake Bay

(By Wilbur S. Forrest, United Press Staff Correspondent.)

London, April 4.—A European power, invading the United States, would strike simultaneously at the undefended shores of Chesapeake bay and at Boston, according to Major C. Darney Stuart-Stephens in an article in the Pictorial.

The major says that the German staff already has worked out such a plan. Though his article may appear far fetched, it presents an interesting description of what would happen should Germany, or any other strong European nation, decide to invade America.

"Fifty per cent of the German mercantile marine is in Hamburg and Bremen," said Major Stuart-Stephens. "In 15 days this flotilla could land 400,000 German veterans on the New England coast line. So efficient is the general staff organization that these liners would return in another month with a like number."

"The German striking point would be at Boston, which would, of course, be captured from the land side and the defenders of which, gentry in themselves, would be devoid of even the presence of such a garrison as could maintain more than a couple of days' resistance."

"A minor operation would be conducted simultaneously at Chesapeake bay, where there are even now no fortifications. Then would follow the holding of a line extending from Lake Erie to Chesapeake bay, both flanks protected by water and behind it the sea. Also between the natural ramparts occupied by the invader and the sea coast are practically all the American arsenals, nine-tenths of the steel works, the munitions factories of Connecticut and the ship building yards."

"This, then the vital region for the equipment and maintenance of the nation's defense, would be in the enemy's rear. The whole of the republic, save the all-important section behind the enemy's lines could live comfortably with plenty of food, clothes and movies wherewith to remove the tedium of time, but the American colossus would be without shells, without guns and without the material for their production. Years would elapse before America could, under those conditions, scientifically equip a sufficient army to warrant an assault on the invaders' position on the Alleghenies."

The end of the invasion, the major said, would be that America "would have to shell out her liquid finances when the enemy said 'pay up and we'll go home'."

Coghlan Withdraws from Caplan Defense

Los Angeles, Cal., April 3.—An eleven hour surprise in the trial of David Caplan, for alleged complicity in the dynamiting of the Times building here five years ago was sprung when the case opened today and it was announced that Nate Coghlan, prominent San Francisco attorney had withdrawn from the case.

Coghlan was the chief counsel for the defense in the Schmidt trial following the death of Judge Charles Fairall, whom he succeeded and it had been understood Coghlan would continue to lead the defense in the Caplan trial. Even the defendant did not know until he was informed in court this morning that Coghlan had withdrawn.

Caplan announced that he had employed Jacob Margolis as assistant counsel. Margolis, not having been admitted to the bar in California, was unable to proceed this morning and the case was postponed until Wednesday.

Judge Willis informed Caplan that the court would secure the public defender for him in the event that he should not have an attorney by Wednesday.

The reason for Coghlan's withdrawal was not announced. Caplan is charged with murder in connection with the wrecking of the Times newspaper plant here five and a half years ago. He is an alleged co-conspirator with Matthew Schmidt, sentenced to life imprisonment several months ago.

THINK VILLA HAS MADE HIS ESCAPE AND IS IN HIDING

Mexican Cattle King Confirms Story of Villa Going to Satero

15,000 CARRANZISTAS MARCHING FROM TORREON

Light Air of High Altitudes Makes Aeroplane Service Very Uncertain

(By Wilbur S. Forrest, United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Torreón, Mex., April 4.—Offering to surrender if given amnesty, General Canuto Reyes, commanding Villistas in the region, has communicated with General Trevino of the constitutionalists, the latter announced today.

Reyes was recently reported active near here, various accounts saying he led 1,500 bandits.

El Paso, Texas, April 4.—American troops are approaching the Durango state line from south of Chihuahua City surprising army observers by the rapidity of their southward march. On Friday Colonel George Dodd's men appeared at San Antonio, near Cuahuachic. Simultaneously Francisco Villa traversed the Sateve district, 50 miles south, and was reported fleeing to his familiar haunts in Durango mountains. It is believed he will not attempt to join the Canuto Reyes in the Torreón region. Instead, he will probably hide in the Durango Sierras.

Fifteen thousand Carranzistas were reported today marching northward from Torreón. Absence of illuminating reports from the pursuit resulted in Washington sending Brigadier General J. J. Pershing a request for a statement.

Major Sample announced that Pershing would be on the line of communication in the event of Villa's capture. It was admitted as possible that he had escaped the Cordón of Dodd's and Pershing's troops.

Pershing is thought to be south of San Antonio, so close to Villa that he has no time to reach his lines of communication. Aeroplanes are unable to cope with the light air of high altitudes. Lieutenant Willis had a narrow escape while flying last Sunday. He was being brought to a great speed when the fog lifted suddenly to reveal his plane heading into a wall of rock. He swooped upward and was out of danger just in the nick of time.

Juan Terrazas, cattle king, arrived from Chihuahua City today and confirmed the report that Villa had gone toward Sateve with a small following. His information contained no mention that the outlaw chief had been wounded, however. The belief is growing here that Villa has not been injured. Though General Pershing reported he had heard of Villa being hurt, the information was only an indirect story from wood cutters who claimed they saw "Panchito" with a broken leg, fleeing in a litter. Pershing has since stated that such tales from Mexicans are sometimes misleading.

WAR GETS PORTLAND MAN

Portland, Or., April 4.—Lieutenant Frank Wilder, formerly a Portland real estate man, was killed in action "somewhere in Flanders," according to a telegram received by his brother, Richard Wilder. Lieutenant Wilder was a member of the royal horse artillery. He received a commission three months after going to the front as a private.

DEY LAW CLOSES RESTAURANT

Portland, Or., April 4.—The biggest five cent restaurant in Portland closed its doors today for lack of patronage. Until the advent of prohibition the eating house, located in the North End, did a big business. Since January 1, its patronage has gradually declined.

THE WEATHER

Oregon: Tonight and Wednesday unsettled, probable showers; cooler to-night; east portion; southwesterly winds.

