

Were Looting British Canteen

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 12.—(By the Associated Press).—With the exception of Merville, the Germans thus far have not reached their objectives in part for the present drive north and south of Armentieres, but today's developments indicated that the enemy had no intention of abandoning the assault immediately. A captured German document reveals that there were to be three smashes on the front north and south of Armentieres. One had Bailleul as its main objective, the other Merville and Aire and the third Behuise.

Not less than twenty-eight divisions have been employed by the enemy in this pretentious programme, which has meant that at some places the British have been very heavily outnumbered. A German division aggregates 13,000-14,000 men, including 7,500 rifles.

St Venant, between Merville and Aire, was being heavily attacked today by strong forces of Germans after their success of last night, which gave them possession of Merville. The enemy seems desirous of reaching Aire a railway centre, and was throwing large number of troops into the conflict in an attempt to drive the British back. The German threat in this direction undoubtedly is of considerable importance.

The fighting to-day continued to be of the bitterest nature, not only in the Merville neighborhood, where the main assault was made, but also northward from Givenchy.

Yesterday and last night the enemy continued his pressure from Wytschaete southward and gradually forced the British to fall back from Ploegsteert and Ploegsteert Wood, until the battle was being staged to-day near Neuve Eglise, to the west.

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TORONTO—ONTARIO

In the meantime steady pressure was maintained in the Evreux sector beyond which lay Merville and Aire. During the night the enemy pushed back the defences at L'Isam and captured Cotonne Sar Les, just south-west of Merville. At the same time they pressed down through Nœuf Berquin, a little above Merville, and these two converging forces hurled themselves on the town.

Giving way before greater numbers, the British fell back toward St. Venant, fighting doggedly all the way against the closely pressing Germans. A sanguinary battle was proceeding to-day east of St. Venant, with the British making determined stand. During the night the British counter-attacked west of Steenwerck, west of Armentieres, and re-occupied L. Bailleul after hard fighting.

The German attack about Givenchy was being pressed to-day by some nine divisions. There has been virtually no cessation in the fighting here since the beginning of the battle Tuesday. Thus far, the British have maintained a somewhat defence against which the Germans have flung themselves with heavy losses. Today the casualties of the attacking troops was swelled appallingly as the British artillery and machine guns pounded concentration points and troops advancing in close formation.

The work of the British gunners at Givenchy has been noteworthy. On the first day, when the Germans swept forward in masses and the situation was very grave, many artillerymen worked for hours shooting point blank at close range. One gunnery sergeant stood by his piece firing with open sights at a range of 200 yards and held the enemy off for a considerable time before he was compelled to fall back.

The British troops who have been making such a gallant stand just above Givenchy also distinguished themselves by holding the Germans up for hours at a certain point in the battle before Cambrai on November 30, when the enemy counter-attacked.

It became known to-day that of the 750 Germans captured near Givenchy last Tuesday, 300 were rounded while devoting their energies to looting a British canteen.

Americans' Share In U-boats Hunts

(The New York Times.)

London, Saturday, March 30.—Behind the terse reports of the mosquito fleet commanders engaged in the hunt for German submarines lies a tale of the most fascinating game of hide-and-seek ever played on the high seas. The American destroyers are taking their full share in it, the crews staking their lives on sharpness of hearing and quickness of vision, and official reports to which The New York Times correspondent has had access give several cases in which they were in at the depth.

Thus one of them sighted a U-boat on her port bow and, altering her course, made full speed for her. The German submerged, but not deeply enough. As he ran along under the surface he left a wake behind. That was enough for the American. She put herself across the course of the submarine and bided her time. As the line of telltale bubbles reached her starboard quarter she dropped a depth charge. No ripple appeared on the port quarter, so she resumed her cruise, well satisfied.

Another day a British destroyer sighted a periscope two miles away, but by the time she reached the spot

nothing was to be seen. Her commander thought a moment, figured out the probable course of the German and dropped a depth charge. For a time nothing happened, but an hour later as the destroyer went about her business a muffled explosion was heard beneath the surface and quantities of oil over spread the waves. The destroyer commander smiled grimly and made a brief entry in his log.

AN ORGANIZED HUNT

Sometimes an organized hunt is necessary and a regular pack of small craft spread a net through which the smartest of the submarines cannot grope. A little squadron of British motor launches were on patrol when an enemy was detected under water. He heard the propellers of the patrol and as they closed in he began to zigzag. They stopped to confuse him, and he stopped. Then he stole off again. For hours the game of blindman's buff went on till at last the motor squadron commander had worked his craft into the position desired. At his command they "laid their eggs." Deep booms broke suddenly from the depth of the sea, telltale oil appeared, and the flotilla resumed its patrol.

To charge their batteries submarines must come to the surface and thereby risk their lives. Reports were received that a U-boat was in a certain area and it was pretty certain that she was lying on the bottom. A squadron of small vessels was collected about the suspect. For hours they kept watch and vigil, but nothing broke the surface of the calm sea. The night was dark, but clear and with every light hidden. The chain of patrol boats waited for the Hun to rise. At last the U-boat began to emerge, and a moment hot fire was turned on her. She tried to submerge and was helped by a depth charge, after which nothing more was heard of her.

An American destroyer on one occasion saved two different convoys. As she was guarding one at night she saw in the rays of the moon an object about a mile distant. She steamed for it at full speed, but while she was still a few hundred yards distant the U-boat dived. Two "pills" were sent after her, and the usual oil appeared. This submarine had been lying in wait for a convoy coming from the opposite direction, and this now proceeded to port safely.

On another occasion two American destroyers were escorting a convoy of merchantmen when a periscope was sighted. The destroyers made for it, but the U-boat commander had seen them and submerged. A depth charge was dropped and the destroyers wheeled back to the spot. In a few minutes the periscope emerged again and moved as though the submarine was making a fresh attempt for the convoy. Immediately the destroyers were off again at full speed. The periscope disappeared a second time, but not before the leading destroyer had got in three rounds and dropped a depth charge. This took effect.

The submarine bow came up rapidly, and in a minute or two was seen to be lying on the surface at an angle of 30 degrees, with the stern down. The crew managed to right her and she tried to get away on the surface, but the Americans opened fire and the Germans came tumbling up on deck with hands up and cries of "Kamerad." The destroyers put off boats to pick them up and the U-boat went to the bottom.

SUBMARINE HUNTS SUBMARINEN.

Perhaps the most novel feature of all this novel warfare is the duels fought between submarine and submarine. In these the power of the adversaries to submerge and hide adds to the excitement and the difficulty of the conflict. One morning a British submarine sighted a German, and immediately dived and altered her course so as to reach a more favorable position.

Showing her periscope just above the surface she watched the German, and just twenty-two minutes after first sighting her got opposite to her and let loose a torpedo. Sixty seconds later a sharp explosion rang out, and when the British boat emerged all she could see was a patch of oil right ahead, and three men swimming in it.

Here is a succinct official statement from the commander of a British submarine which tells the story of a successful action in the fewest possible words:

"Ten A. M. sighted hostile submarine. Attacked same. Ten three A. M. torpedoed submarine. Hit with one torpedo amidships. Submarine seemed to blow up and disappeared. Surface to look for survivors. Put down immediately by destroyers who fired at

me." The commander evidently felt that this submergence of his needed some explanation so he added the following note:

"During my attack there was just enough sea to make depth keeping difficult. I fired two torpedoes and one hit at the forward end of the conning tower. A large column of yellow smoke about one and one half times as high as the mast was observed and the submarine disappeared. The explosion was heard and felt in our own submarine. On previous day the periscope became very stiff to turn, and in the dark hours I attempted to rectify same, but while doing so I was forced to dive, and thus lost all tools and nuts of the centre bush.

"While attacking it took two men besides myself to turn the periscope. For this reason I did not consider it prudent to attack destroyers after having sunk submarine. After torpedoing submarine I proceeded four miles northward and lay on bottom. Many vessels throughout the day were heard in close proximity. Several explosions were heard, especially one very heavy one. It must have been close, as noise was considerably louder than that of torpedo. On one occasion wire sweep scraped whole length of boat along my port side and vessel was heard to pass directly overhead."

So in bald official language the logs of the American and British submarines tell the tales of the unrelenting hunt for the treacherous enemy. Sometimes they hear a U-boat's engines working under water and lie in wait for her. Often all they know of the result of the encounter is the film of oil floating over and obscuring the glass of their own periscope. Sometimes they see fragments of metal, a piece of brass tubing, flat sheets of steel, or pieces of cork hurled from the surface of the water into the air to tell the effect of the charges they have dropped.

Sometimes they find an obstruction lying on the bottom where no rock should be. On one occasion indeed it is recorded that a German submarine drifted ashore and was pounded to pieces by little fishing boats that closed in until their pop guns could get within range, but generally the anti-U-boat warfare is blind and the destroyers and trawlers, as they know that they themselves run hourly the risks of being sunk, can only have the satisfaction of guessing at their success by hearing muffled explosions from below or seeing patches of oil rising to the top of the waves.

British Sunk 10 German Trawlers

London, April 16.—Ten German trawlers have been sunk by gunfire in the Cattegat (between Sweden and Denmark), the admiralty announces. Their crews were saved by British ships. There were no British casualties.

The operations on the Cattegat were undertaken by the commander-in-chief of the grand fleet. The statement follows:

"The commander-in-chief of the grand fleet reports having undertaken to sweep the Cattegat on April 15. Ten German trawlers were sunk by gunfire, their crews being saved by British ships. There were no British casualties."

New York, April 16.—Germany is so hard pressed for man-power that permanently disabled soldiers are retained in the army and cripples are called to the colors. This statement was made in the Reichstag by Deputy Ryssel, an independent Socialist, on Feb. 23, according to the Berlin Vorwaerter, received here. Other deputies also had bare senseless conditions prevailing in the German army.

Deputy Stuecklen said there were general and severe criticisms of the fact that soldiers 48 years of age are still in the trenches. He said the furlough situation was chaotic and that much favoritism was being shown.

Tokio, April 10.—(By the Associated Press).—Official advices from Vladivostok say the city is

calm. Japanese bluejackets are not replying to occasional shots from snipers at night. Protection of the French consulate has been taken over by the Japanese.

The Japanese foreign minister announces there is no confirmation of a Petrograd despatch that the Bolshevik government has proclaimed a state of war in Siberia and ordered the Red Guard to oppose the Japanese marines.

Amsterdam, April 16.—In connection with the provision of the Roumanian peace treaty giving Germany a lease of 99 years of the Roumanian oil wells, the Berlin Tage Zeitung reports Germany has reserved the right of military occupation of the oil producing territory for several years.

Germans Plan Great Naval Raid

Geneva, April 12.—Greatest activity reigns at German naval bases, and especially at Kiel. Coal and ammunition is being shipped to the fleet in large quantities, according to information received here this morning from a reliable neutral source.

German naval contingents, with heavy guns, were recently recalled from the western front to join the fleet, and were replaced by Austrian artillery manned by land forces.

Indications are that a naval raid of great magnitude is about to be attempted.

Definite Crisis Has Been Reached

London, April 12.—A definite crisis has again been reached, Major General F. B. Maurice, Chief Director of Military Operations at the War Office, declared to-day.

"The situation is undoubtedly unpleasant," he added. "The enemy is within a short distance of Bailleul, which is an important railway centre for feeding our Messines-Wytschaete front. He is also advancing in the direction of Hazebrouck, which is a very important railway centre."

General Maurice said that on the other hand the Germans are advancing on a very flat and intricate country and have not yet gained any dominating position. Seventeen enemy divisions have been engaged up to the present and the enemy has lost very heavily.

Paris, April 13.—The Germans last night renewed their attacks upon the French positions in Bruis Wood, in the forest of Apremont. American troops in this sector, in conjunction with the French, says today's official statement, have combatted with vigor and broken the majority of the enemy attacks. At one point where the enemy obtained a footing he was thrown out by a counter-attack.

On the Somme battle front the entire village of Hangard and the adjoining cemetery have been regained from the Germans.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 13.—(By the Associated Press).—Further attacks on the British right wing between Givenchy and Rolyce, on La Bassée Canal, yesterday wholly failed. Two attempts made late in the afternoon to capture Locon were repulsed. The British also counter-attacked around Givenchy and took an important German post.