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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime—Southerly and south- *
* westerly winds, gradually in- *
* creasing, with snow and rain. *

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THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE AT VERDUN NEARING THE END

Artillery Showing Great Activity Around Verdun

French Official Statement States That No Attacks Were Made by Infantry Last Night---French Aviators Shell Railway Station.

PARIS, March 13.—There has been no infantry fighting last night in the region to the north of Verdun, according to the announcement on the progress of hostilities made by the French War Office this afternoon.

There has been, however, a continuance of the artillery activity along all this front. The text of the announcement follows:

"There was no infantry fighting last night in the region to the north of Verdun. The bombardment continued, however, during the night at Bethincourt and in the vicinity of Douaumont, as well as in the Woevre, in the sectors of Moutainville and Ronavaux. Our artillery showed great activity along this front. In the wood of Le Pretre a detachment of our troops penetrated a trench of the enemy at a point near Croix des Carmes along a front of about 200 yards. The men cleaned up the gaps and after having inflicted some losses on the enemy they returned to our lines with about 24 prisoners. The night was quiet on the remainder of the front.

"During the course of a night fight, a group of French aviators threw down thirty shells of large calibre at the railroad station of Conflans, and flames were seen breaking out at five different points. In spite of a violent cannonade all the French aeroplanes got back without damage."

Bloody Fighting at Verdun Expected

To be Continued During the Coming Week

PARIS, March 13.—"I am ready to sacrifice 200,000 men, but I will get Verdun," said the Kaiser on February 20. The French experts today point out that the Kaiser has lost fully this number of troops in the three weeks of fighting, but say, "Nobody believes that the battle is yet ended."

Le Matin and the Echo de Paris point out that in order to pursue their titanic effort, the German staff must weaken other points of their front by withdrawing men, and also deplete their reserves still in Germany.

"Now look at our own situation," adds Le Matin. "Nowhere have we given ground in such a way as to compromise our defensive line. We have victoriously resisted attacks everywhere with minimum losses. When the number of wounded in the evacuated Verdun region becomes known, the people will be staggered by the relative unimportance of our losses.

"We reveal that these losses are considerably lower than our casualties during the Champagne offensive."

All Traces of Nervousness Over Verdun

Campaign Have Disappeared in Paris

"The fighting will continue as bloody as ever during the coming week," says Lieut. Col. Roussel.

"The Kaiser will continue to hurl his best troops against our iron wall, but unless an entirely unexpected change occurs, Verdun will remain impregnable," says Major Civrieux.

"The battle is bound to continue for many long days," says Marcel Hulin. "Germany must fight on to avoid a ghastly defeat," says the Journal critic. All trace of nervousness has disappeared in Paris. The prospect of a continuation of the battle is accepted with greater confidence than at any time during the past three weeks.

Turkish Official Statement Claims That

British Attacks in Arabia Were Repulsed

BERLIN, March 13 (by wireless to Sayville).—The Turkish War Office statement issued here under date of March 12 is as follows: "The enemy's losses in the battle of Felapie, on the Mesopotamian front are estimated at at least 5,000. In Arabia, on the Yemen front, a British detachment of 6,000 infantry supported by 600 cavalry and 12 guns, started on Jan. 12 from Sheikhosman, north of Aden, and occupied the town of Afisch. They attacked the Turkish vanguards with superior forces, but were stopped by a Turkish counter attack from El Vahila. After three hours the enemy withdrew. Only the protection of long range artillery averted a panic.

"The enemy then tried to offer resistance at El Emeihale, four kilometres south of Afisch in positions which he had prepared in advance, but was forced by Turkish troops to retreat into the fortified camp of Sheikhosman, under the protection

(Continued on page 5.)

U. S. TROOPS READY TO CHASE VILLA

Columbus, N. M., March 13.—Actual concentration of United States troops for an expedition into Mexico to try to capture Francisco Villa was begun here today.

From the heavy troop movement to Columbus it would seem, according to officers on station here that this point is to be made a base of operations. It is not expected here that the expedition to enter Mexico from this point will be started for several days, because of the poor railroad facilities with which to concentrate the troops.

Meanwhile Francisco Villa, with but a small body of men, it is reported here, is fleeing farther from the United States border daily, and into the mountains, which parallel the borders of Chihuahua and Sonora toward Guere, where his outlaw days began, and where, to almost every peon, "pancho" Villa is a hero.

Army men here point out that, once back in the mountains among friends, the pursuit of Villa is apt to resemble a game of hide and seek. Some officers believe that the pursuit may be a matter of months.

MURDERER TO GO TO ELECTRIC CHAIR

New York, March 13.—Joseph E. Hanel, convicted last week for the murder of Mrs. Julia Heilner, a wealthy Brooklyn widow by whom he had been employed as butler, was sentenced today to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing on April 24. The murder was committed on April 23 last year.

POLICE COURT.

One drunk appeared before the police magistrate this morning. He was remanded till Wednesday.

URGES GERMANY TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR PEACE

Outspoken Article in German Paper From the Pen of Maximilian Harden—Failure of Crown Prince's Army Before Verdun the Cause of Serious Riots in German Cities.

LONDON, March 13.—Maximilian Harden is most outspoken in an article in Die Zukunft, which has been received here. He makes a strong demand for peace, and urges that the German government begin negotiations immediately.

"Germany," he says, "has heaped victory upon victory. It therefore devolves upon her the duty of making an offer of peace. Such an offer could only add to and not diminish her prestige. It would be proof of her strength, not weakness. Besides, Germany must propose peace because she is in need of peace. Germany is victorious in the field, but internally she is beset with difficulties. We cannot deny that the preparation for the third harvest is more difficult than for the second. We do not yet lack men, but we can no longer procure certain war materials. Meanwhile our war expenditure is increasing to an alarming extent. At the end of three years of war we should have lost every one of the commercial markets where we had established positions which were seemingly unassailable.

"If Germany waits longer, she will find herself reduced to obey the will of her enemies. It thus becomes necessary that she invite the world to conclude peace. This invitation may be interpreted as a sign of weakness, but that matters little. If our offers are declined, we shall have fulfilled the final duty which our consciences dictate toward Europe and humanity."

SERIOUS RIOTS IN GERMANY.

NEW YORK, March 13.—A cable to the Tribune from London this morning says: "Reports continue to be published here of rioting in German cities consequent upon the failure of the Crown Prince's army before Verdun. The Daily Express prints a despatch from Amsterdam to the effect that riots of the most serious character have been taking place in Cologne almost constantly since the beginning of the Verdun offensive, and that police and troops have been called upon to keep order.

"The reason for the trouble is said to be the popular indignation caused by the continual passage of wounded by train from France. This is telling on the nerves of the Cologne people. For a fortnight past trains have been running constantly in such numbers that it has been impossible to confine their passage to the night time."

GERMAN TROOPS MELTED AWAY UNDER FIERCE FIRE OF FRENCH AT VERDUN

Enemy's Losses in the Fighting on Friday and Saturday Surpassed all Previous Records---Attackers Lost Two-Thirds of Effectives.

PARIS, March 13. — The German losses in the fighting around Vaux last Friday and Saturday surpass all the previous records in this war, according to officers who have returned from Verdun.

Time and time again, and with extraordinary courage, the Germans in columns four deep rushed from their trenches, only to melt away under the fire of the French 75, 50 and 210 millimetre guns, which rained shells with deadly accuracy into the marching companies. When the smoke and dust cleared nothing was to be seen but heaps of bodies.

DITCHES RAN RED WITH BLOOD.

The spur on which the fort is situated is almost perpendicular in places. The German lines were forced to halt, but many Bavarian reservists climbed up on one another's shoulders and struggled up the slope, clinging to angles of rock and grasping tufts of grass. Again and again the human pyramids collapsed into shapeless gray masses. In places where the incline was easier and the attacks therefore more concentrated, the ditches below ran red with blood. At the lowest estimate the attackers lost two-thirds of their effectives.

THE ATTACK ON VAUX.

The fighting also was desperate in the extreme when regiments from the 15th and 18th German army corps attacked the village of Vaux on Friday. Dawn was just breaking, and over the country hung a heavy white mist, making everything invisible beyond a hundred yards. This enabled the Germans to get within rushing distance of the French front trenches, but although they outnumbered the defenders six to one, it took four distinct assaults before the first column of Germans won shelter in a small group of houses beyond the church of Vaux.

MADE REPEATED ATTACKS.

They then organized an assault upon the church, and the French, being unable to bring up reinforcements on account of the German curtain of fire, withdrew their advanced elements, which were in danger of being surrounded. Five times the North Prussian regiments rushed to attack the church, but every time they left the shelter of the ruined houses they were beaten back by the French fire from machine guns and the shrapnel from the 78 millimetre mountain guns.

In the meantime, in their rear, a curtain of fire was kept up by the French 75th and 210s, so that it was impossible for munitions and reinforcements to be brought up for their benefit, and the fight died down Friday night from sheer exhaustion.

TRAINLOADS OF WOUNDED.

LONDON, March 13.—An Amsterdam despatch to the Central News says that on account of the German offensive at Verdun the Dutch-Belgian frontier has been closed for several weeks. That part of it south of Maastricht has now been reopened and this fact is being commented on in Holland as probably indicating that the Germans consider their offensive near an end. The despatch adds that 81 more hospital trains with wounded Germans have passed through Luxembourg.

THE TURKS WANT PEACE.

LONDON, March 13.—An Athens despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company says that according to information received there by letter from Constantinople, the populations of Brussels, Konich and other cities of Asia Minor have addressed memorials to Prince Vahid Eddine, the Turkish heir apparent, begging him to urge upon the Sultan the necessity of changing the present Government in order to prepare the way for the conclusion of a separate peace by Turkey with the Entente powers.

TO STOP CONTRABAND.

PARIS, March 13.—In order to prevent the passage of contraband into Switzerland over Lake Constance, military authorities are erecting along the Swiss shore of the lake barbed wire barriers charged with electricity.