
* Notice to Advertisers. *
* In order to ensure changes *
* being made in advertisements, *
* copy must reach this office not *
* later than 9 a.m. on the day *
* of publication. *

The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime—Southeast gales *
* with rain; Sunday, strong west- *
* erly winds, becoming colder, *
* with snow flurries. *

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FREDERICTON, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Struggle Being Carried
On With Great Fury
Near Verdun

NO ADMISSION OF LOSS OF FORTRESS

French Artillery is Reply-
ing Vigorously to the
Enemy's Attack.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim to taking the armored fortress of Douamont, outside of Verdun, comes through German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously, owing to the recognized strategic importance of this fort, which is the base of solid field works on a line of hills 1,000 feet high about six miles northeast of Verdun.

The last detailed information showed the French holding lines two and a half miles beyond Douamont.

The German attacks in the region of Douamont, east of the Meuse, have failed, the War Office said, notwithstanding repeated attacks and tremendous slaughter. The text of the statement follows:

"The fighting is still being carried on bitterly in the region north of Verdun, where the enemy continues his efforts on the front to the east of the Meuse. After the last engagement, our troops retained their position in spite of the repeated assaults of the enemy, who still continues his sacrifices.

In the region of Beaumont the battle, which is still raging, has taken a most sanguinary character.

Artillery Duels.

On the front of the Woivre, the advance post which we had as lines of observation from Ornes to Henneumont, since the battles of last year, have been attacked by infantry forces from both sides of the Meuse. Our artillery on both right and left banks of the river replied without ceasing to the bombardment of the enemy.

"Nothing of importance has occurred on the remainder of the front."

No Regard for Losses.

Paris, Feb. 26.—The Germans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, which the War Office announced this afternoon.

Official Report From Germany

Berlin, Feb. 26 (via London).—An official statement issued here today says that considerable advances have been made east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun, in the presence of Emperor William.

The War Office also announced the capture of the hills southwest of the village of Louvemont and the fortified positions to the east thereof. The resistance of the French broke down on the Woivre plain along the entire front to Merphoville, south of the high road from Paris to Metz.

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement said.

"On the western front on the night of Feb. 25 an advance by a British detachment east of Armentieres was repulsed. In the Champagne the French made an attack south of the St. Marie-a-Py position, which we captured on Feb. 12. They succeeded in penetrating our first line trenches over a width of about 250 yards.

THE STOCK MARKET.

J. M. Robinson & Sons received the following quotations up to noon: C. P. R., 168½; Crucible Steel, 78½; U. S. Steel, 83¼; Union, 133¾; Car, 39¾; Scotia, 95½; Power, 22½.

Battle Now Going on in Vicinity of Verdun One of Fiercest of the War

Berlin Official Report Claims That Fort Douamont Has Been Captured by the Germans---Paris Official Report States That the French Troops Are Holding Their Ground in Spite of Repeated Assaults.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The tremendous German drive for Verdun was continued with undiminished fury today. Berlin today claims the breaking of the cordon of protecting forts by the capture of Fort Douamont, four miles to the west of Verdun. The loss of this outlying fortification, however, is not admitted in to-day's French official statement, which declares that despite the desperate German assaults, the French have maintained their positions.

While the German wing on the east has been driving at Fort Douamont and its protecting trenches, the centre of the Crown Prince's forces has worked down the Meuse valley, hammering at the ridge of La Cote Du Poivre, just south of Louvemont and about four and a half miles north of the main fortress. All along the Verdun front the Germans are hurling their men against the French lines without regard to sacrifices, Paris declares, the fighting being particularly desperate in the region of Beaumont, almost directly north of Verdun. Accounts from various sources agree that the fighting has been of a degree of intensity virtually unparalleled in the war.

Late advices from Albania through German sources predicted the early fall of Durazzo as the result of a defeat of the Italian and Albanian forces by the Austrians and Germans. The Italians were declared to be hurriedly embarking their troops from the port.

The Fall of Fort Douamont is Officially Announced by the German War Office

BERLIN, Feb. 26 (via London).—It is officially announced that Fort Douamont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday and is now firmly held by the Germans. The official announcement is as follows:

"The armored Fort Douamont, the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent main line of fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon by the 24th Regiment of Brandenburg infantry, and is now firmly in German hands.

Fort Douamont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun, and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from the city to Metz. Douamont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from east. Forts Desauville, de Tavannes and St. Michel lie directly between the position conquered by the Germans and the city of Verdun.

Conquest of the Fort Was the Outcome of One of the Fiercest Battles of the War

The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has scored the greatest advance in the assault on the French positions. Douamont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherto been the principle line of progress, being situated four miles east of the Meuse river. The main force of the German attack, as indicated by the previous official communications, was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

The capture of Douamont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun—an onslaught which for fury and for weight of men and guns has few precedents in the war.

The French War Office has expressed confidence that, notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortresses would be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe. It is the strongest fortress of France, and is of particular importance from the fact that it offers direct communication with Paris, which is 150 miles to the west. Verdun marks the northerly point of the great French defences against direct attacks from German territory, the most southerly being Belfort. Between these two points lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France.

The Attack on Verdun Was Rehearsed on Miniature Scale Behind the German Lines

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Petit Parisien says that the battle now raging before Verdun was preceded on February 12 by a feint in Champagne intended to divert attention from the coming drive on Verdun. A curious feature of the Champagne attack, subsequently used at Verdun, was the rehearsal on a miniature scale behind the German lines of the attack about to be delivered.

A few days previous the soldiers were ordered to assemble at a given spot, so as to reproduce exactly the intended onset. There was an imitation on a reduced scale of French trenches and other features of the defence works. The scheme had been worked out from aeroplane photographs of the French lines and copies of the plan on a scale of one to two thousand had been supplied to each soldier. Several attacks were rehearsed, until the General Staff was satisfied that the attackers knew just what to do.

The attack in the Champagne on February 12 failed chiefly because the change of wind, the Petit Parisien says, rendered ineffective a large quantity of asphyxiating gas and flame-throwers which were relied upon for the success of the attack.

Situation Looked Upon as Serious in French Official Circles, But Not Disquieting

PARIS, Feb. 26.—"Serious, but not disquieting," is the common phrase which is used today in official and parliamentary circles regarding the progress of the Germans in their attack against Verdun.

Unaffected by the snow storm, the Germans hammered away all day Friday at the French line, which, although unbroken at the end of the sixth day of battle, was, however, again rectified as a measure of prudence, the left wing being drawn in to Champangeville and the right being brought back a little south of Ornes. The new front, barely three miles in length, extends along the heights, offering every advantage for defence and forming one of the most formidable obstacles before the entrenched camp of Verdun.

It is in this narrow space that the Crown Prince is hurling his masses, and military observers here express the belief that the counter offensive will be launched from this line at a precise and decisive moment, and that it will drive back across the ground already covered with the dead bodies of their comrades, the battalions which are being hurled forward in the most bloody assault which this war has yet seen.

Huns are Gnawing Away at the French Lines With No Advantage to Themselves

"The work up there is hot indeed," said an officer who has just arrived in Paris from the Verdun front. "They are gnawing at our lines a little faster, but with no positive advantage for themselves. Previous attacks made by the Germans in that section are nothing to what they are now delivering. I cannot, of course, give details, but I can say that we are holding well against their formidable attacks. The artillery exchanges are intense. Our batteries, admirably handled, have changed their ground in masterly style, and the losses to the enemy are really fabulous. Ours are slight, a feeble percentage of theirs.

"The Germans are, so to speak, at the limits of Argonne and the Meuse heights, the topography of which constitutes what I might compare to a series of cofferdams. The Germans have been preparing this stroke for a long time. It was in the regions of Conflans, Etin, that they gathered the bulk of the material for the assault, as they had erected large factories at those points."

Russians Storm and Capture the Im- portant Persian City of Kermanshah

LONDON, Feb. 26.—A Reuter despatch from Petrograd says that the Russians have taken by storm Karmanshah, the important Persian city in the neighborhood of which serious fighting has recently taken place.

An official despatch from Teheran, published yesterday, said that after a series of battles in the mountain passes, as a result of which the Russians captured a considerable quantity of booty, the Turks who had been aided by Germans, had retreated towards Kermanshah. Kermanshah is 280 miles southwest of Teheran, and has a population of about 30,000. The routes from Bagdad, Shuster, and Isphaham by way of Hamadan and Suleimaniyah meet there and make the city an important centre of traffic.

The Russian operations in Persia, which have culminated in the capture of Kermanshah, have had the local purpose of putting an end to the activities of hostile mountain forces and organized bands of Kurds, and it is believed that they have the broader scope of preparing the way for a junction of the Russians with the British expeditionary forces in Mesopotamia.

HAVRE, France, Feb. 26.—At a meeting of the Belgian cabinet yesterday it was decided to call up the recruits of the 1917 class at an early date.

PORTUGAL EXERCISING HER RIGHTS

Premier makes Statement
In Regard to Seizure
Of German Ships

EXPLOSIVES FOUND ON INTERNED SHIPS

Comment of Berlin News-
papers on Action of
Portugal.

LISBON, Feb. 25 (via Paris, Feb. 26).—The Portuguese Premier stated in the Chamber of Deputies today that attempts had been made to damage seven of the Teutonic ships requisitioned by the Government and that an explosive had been found on the steamship Buelow of North German Lloyd Co. The Premier added that he considered it in the interest of Portugal that the existing treaty with Germany be allowed to lapse, and said that the Portuguese government was prepared for all eventualities that might arise from the exercise by Portugal of her rights.

Explosives Found.

Dr. Alfonso Costa, the Premier, in answer to a question by Deputy Camacho regarding the employment to which the requisitioned German and Austrian vessels would be put, said the government's action in requisitioning them had been prompted by the necessities of the nation's economic situation. The requisition, he said, had been carried out simultaneously in order to forestall, as far as possible any attempts at wilful damage of the ships, which there was reason to believe would be made, and in fact which had been made on several of them.

An explosive apparatus had been found in the boilers of the steamship Buelow, which would have caused an explosion when the vessel moved. An explosion was prevented, but the machinery was damaged. These acts, he declared, were offences punishable by the Portuguese courts.

Dr. Costa further said that he considered it was in the best interests of the country that the existing treaty with Germany should be denounced and allowed to lapse on June 5, 1917.

Ready for Eventualities.

In conclusion he said: "We are prepared for all eventualities which may arise from exercising our rights."

The North German Lloyd steamship Buelow is of 8,965 gross tons, is 462 feet long, 57 feet beam and was constructed at Geestemunde in 1906. She has been at Lisbon since soon after the outbreak of the war.

The German Press.

Berlin, Feb. 25 (via London, Feb. 26).—Newspaper comment on the seizure of German and Austrian ships in Portuguese harbors is in a tone of indignation. The press generally states that this action on the part of Portugal is regarded as an indication of the great need of Great Britain for more tonnage.

Pleased With Send-Off To Field Battery

Major Crowe, officer commanding the 36th Field Battery, before leaving Fredericton, expressed himself as very well pleased with the send-off given his unit by both civilians and military people. On the march last night the Battery was preceded by Lieut. J. J. H. Doone's platoon of C Company, 104th Battalion. The other platoons of this company, commanded by Lieutenants Tweedie, Machum and Lawrence, lined the streets through which the procession passed.

Major Pincombe, O. C. of the 104th Battalion detachment here, walked with Major Crowe. Mayor Mitchell and the city officials also marched in the procession.

Major F. A. Good, Capt. W. H. Teed and Lieut. E. J. Cronin of the 104th Battalion were also in the parade.