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

The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime—East to northeast *
* winds, increasing to gales, with *
* snow tonight; Thursday stormy. *

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The Battle of Verdun Has Already Been Decided

**This is the View of an Eminent Swiss Military Critic---
German Artillery Attack on Malancourt Cannot Make
Any Difference in the Result.**

LONDON, March 22.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail wires to his paper as follows: "The German attack on Malancourt cannot possibly make any difference in the position of affairs. The Germans profited by artillery emplacements and flame-throwers to surprise the first French trenches and gain a couple of hundred feet advance. This they very well know cannot in any way affect the final issue of the battle of Verdun, which already has been decided in favor of the defenders.

Having failed in the initial attack, they are now seeking to maintain the attack until Friday, when the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, is to deliver his impatiently-awaited statement on foreign affairs in the Reichstag. As Col. Feyler, the eminent Swiss military critic says: "The battle of Verdun is over."

Austrians and Bulgarians Were Guilty of Horrible Crimes in Serbia (Canadian Press.)

ROME, March 22.—The governments of the Allies have secured evidence and documents which will shortly be published, proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of horrible crimes in Serbia, where massacres worse than in Armenia were perpetrated. According to the evidence which the Serbians have communicated to the Italian government and the Pope, the victims exceed 700,000. Whole districts and towns were depopulated. Women, children and old men were shut up in a church by Austrians, and there bayoneted or suffocated by asphyxiating gas. In one church in Belgrade it is alleged 3,000 women and children and old men were suffocated. The Serbian refugees state that they were present when bombs and machines for producing asphyxiating gas were distributed to the Bulgars.

Naval Correspondent Says the German Fleet Has Been Out in the North Sea

LONDON, March 22.—The Daily Chronicle's correspondent at a great naval base, writing on "Scrapping in the North Sea," says German warships have been out in the North Sea, and our sailors are convinced they will be out again soon.

The Moewe evaded the blockade out and in, and naval men are the first to acknowledge the skill and daring of her seamanship. The dash of the Germans on the Dogger Bank, when they sank the mine-sweeper Arabis was their only dash out, and we got in some blows before they found refuge behind the Frisian littoral. Our fleet now is never long at its moorings. It becomes restless behind the multiple defences which guard the narrow channels to its base and during the last four weeks the battle squadron has often scudded to sea. It is out on the prowl now at quicker intervals than we have ever known—often even than in the very early days of the war—and the discontent engendered by the long waiting in sheltered waters has vanished like the rising mists of a spring morning.

Air Raid by the Allies Has Rendered Zeebrugge of Little Value as a Naval Base

LONDON, March 22.—A despatch from the Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says: As an air and naval base Zeebrugge is now of little value. The combined naval and aerial bombardment by the Allies yesterday has reduced it to a chaos of crumbling masonry. The majority of the air bombs fell upon the Solvay works, which caught fire, and in the harbor several mine layers were badly damaged.

Practically the only things which were not damaged were two submarines, which promptly submerged in the dock when the attack began. Three torpedo boats were driven into the open seas to escape the falling bombs. They manoeuvred within the mine field, but were continually harassed by the Allied airmen and forced further seaward, only to be chased by British destroyers.

The French Official Statement Today Tells of Intense Artillery Exchanges

PARIS, March 22.—No infantry attacks were made on the Verdun front last night, the War Office announced this afternoon. The Germans bombarded Malancourt heavily and there were artillery exchanges of less intensity east of the Meuse.

The statement follows: "West of the Meuse the artillery duel was very lively in the region of Malancourt, Asnes and Hill 304. A particularly heavy fire was directed against the Haucourt hill. East of the Meuse the bombardment was intense in the region of Vaux and Damloup. There were no infantry actions. The night was calm on the rest of the front."

VILLA DODGES YANKEE TROOPS

San Antonio, Tex., March 22.—Gen. Pershing's failure to report an encounter of his troops with those of Francisco Villa and the absence of news from Mexican sources relative to the outcome of the fighting between Villa's men and Carranza's troops in the vicinity of Namasquipa, caused army officers at Fort Sam Houston today to believe the elusive Villa had escaped.

Washington, March 22.—Latest official advices from the American expeditionary forces in Mexico say that General Pershing and his men are close to Villa and his outlaws. All despatches told of the co-operation of the Carranza soldiers in the bandit chase.

Despite unofficial reports of unsettled conditions in the interior of Mexico and along the border, Secretary of War Baker said that although the situation was fraught with many possibilities to date, there had been no unfavorable developments.

Boy Killed While Coasting At Halifax

Halifax, March 22.—A ten year old boy was killed and two boy companions badly injured yesterday while coasting across the tracks of the Halifax & Southwestern Railway.

DUTCH AUTHORITIES PUZZLED OVER TUBITANIA CASE

No Action Likely to be Taken Until an Investigation is Made—London Times Says the Steamer Carried German-owned American Securities, Which Would Have Been Seized by British.

(Canadian Press.)
THE HAGUE, March 22.—The Tubantia case is causing serious perplexity to the Dutch government.

The Associated Press is informed authoritatively that no further action will be taken by the government until the result of an examination by divers is known, but it is admitted that it will be exceedingly difficult to find traces of the supposed torpedo in the coal bunkers of the Tubantia at the depth of 16 or 17 fathoms.

The announcement is made in Rotterdam that small pieces of brass were found in the Tubantia's lifeboats which were picked up by the steamship Batavier and this it is believed will help to clear up the mystery.

Although the German submarines in the North Sea may be in touch by wireless telegraphy with Zeebrugge and Wilhelmshaven, the Handelsblad, of Amsterdam, and other Dutch newspapers, refuse to believe that the de-

nial by Germany of responsibility for the sinking of the Tubantia was based on any genuine investigation.

These newspapers point out, in confirmation of their contention in this regard, that in previous cases of submarine attacks on Dutch steamers, it took weeks for the German admiralty to establish the facts.

Tubantia Carried U. S. Stocks.

London, March 22.—One theory as to why Germany might torpedo the Dutch steamer Tubantia, which was sunk several days ago, according to an article on the Times market page, is that the Tubantia carried a huge sum in German-owned American securities.

The writer argues that as the British would have seized these in the Channel, the only way to realize on them was by sinking the ship. It would be then possible to have duplicates issued in New York.

FOUR MEN KILLED IN HEAD ON COLLISION ON INTERCOLONIAL

Quebec, March 22.—Four men are dead and a number of others are injured following a head-on collision that occurred shortly after 11 o'clock last night at Valbrillant, on the Intercolonial Railway, in the county of Rimouski. The two trains that collided were freight trains. One was at a standstill on the main line at the Valbrillant station, bound east from Levis, while the other was coming up from Campbellton.

All the victims were on the up-bound train, as the crew of the waiting train were all at the station.

The dead are: A. Chalem, of Campbellton, engineer; Legouffre, fireman, Campbellton; St. Amand, of St. Moise, who was in charge of a carload of horses, five of which were killed, and A. Thibideau, of Sayabec, who was with St. Amand.

Legouffre was killed instantly while jumping from the train.

The others were pinned under the wreckage and passed the entire night calling for help, until late this morning, when their dead bodies were recovered.

The accident is attributed to a frozen and open switch. The trains struck head-on, and the two locomotives were

reduced to splinters, thirteen cars being derailed. Fire started in the wreckage, but was soon extinguished. An inquest is to be held this afternoon at Valbrillant.

German Arrested At Berlin, Ont.

Berlin, Ont., March 22.—E. Rich Zek, aged 21, born in Sonneberg, Germany, and for the past two years a resident of Canada, is now a prisoner of war and will be taken to the internment camp at Fort Henry.

Zek, who is a polished young man, is master of five languages and had been employed of late in the office of the Dominion Tire Company.

When the recruiting committee called at this factory on Tuesday, he made statements derogatory to the British Empire sufficient to warrant his internment.

Mr. H. M. Saunders of Halifax, is in the city.

Mr. James Dunbar of Newcastle, is a guest at the Barker House.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE SAYS WORLD'S DEBT TO THE BELGIANS HAS INCREASED

Gallant Little Army Which Held German Hosts in Check is Still Doing Splendid Work---Teutonic Atrocities Committed in Serbia.

TORONTO, March 22.—The Globe publishes the following cable from Lord Northcliffe:

In Belgian Lines, March 22.—This glorious little army that at first arrested the rush of the Germans, the army that gave the Allies invaluable breathing time, has been fighting longer than any of us, and it is not too much to say that the world's debt to Belgium has increased steadily since those memorable events at Liege and Antwerp.

I had been with the Belgian army soon after its long series of rearguard actions. It was suffering from great losses. It was war weary and needed sleep and rest; but it had never lost heart or discipline.

Today it is the same army, but even though renewed it has no great reserves to fall back upon, because the greater part of the nation has been imprisoned. The wise men who administer it under the affectionate care of King Albert, therefore, while getting into the ranks every possible available Belgian of military age, have devoted themselves to the work of refitting and reorganizing. The result is a perfect little army of more men than I am at liberty to state.

VERY PROFICIENT.

Though the shortest of lines held by the Allies, the Belgian line is in proportion to the free Belgian population much the longest occupied. It is the most difficult and extremely uncomfortable position, for in no part of the war zone is the mud of Flanders blacker and deeper than in the Belgian trenches.

It is an open secret that the Belgian preparations were not such as Rebrocquille had urged, but in artillery the gallant little army had acquired great proficiency, doubtless partly by reason of its association with the French. The Belgians are well equipped with great canon, big howitzers, 75s, machine guns, and every gun has a plentiful supply of shells of every description. Our way lay through the ruined Flemish villages where the churches had been shelled to fragments, and in almost every case the carved wooden Christ remained as by miracle untouched.

STEAMER SUNK BY RUSSIANS.

LONDON, March 22.—The sinking by a Russian warship of the steamship Esperanza, off Kaliakra, in the Black Sea (off the Roumanian coast), is reported in a Reuter despatch filed at Bucharest on Sunday. The Esperanza, a 7,000 ton vessel flying the German flag, is said to have been loaded with foodstuffs for Constantinople. The crew was captured by the Russians. The despatch also reports the sinking of a score of small sailing ships with cargoes of foodstuffs.

PORTUGUESE FIGHT WITH NATIVES.

CAPE TOWN, March 22.—"The greatest battle ever fought against a native race in Africa," is the way a government blue book, just issued, characterizes a fight in the north of what was formerly German South Africa, between the Portuguese and the rebellious Ovakuanyama. More than four thousand natives were killed in the battle, which lasted from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m. The Portuguese fired over 2,000 rounds of French "75" shells. According to a statement from Portuguese headquarters, their casualties were only 100.

DAMAGE BY EARTHQUAKE

NEW YORK, March 22.—A news agency despatch from Amsterdam today says: Hundreds of houses in the Austrian towns of Bribar and Grizane have been destroyed or damaged by an earthquake, according to Vienna despatches today.

TURKS EVACUATE ERZINJAN

LONDON, March 22.—A Bucharest despatch forwarded from Amsterdam by the Central News, says that the Turks have evacuated Erzinjan, a fortress of Asia Minor, 120 miles from Erzerum.

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT.

BERLIN, March 22 (via London).—The Russians have gained no success in their great extended offensive against the German lines, the War Office announced today.

PRESIDENT WAS DISPLEASED.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—President Wilson was represented at the White House today as being resentful of the publication of stories that Ambassador Gerard had reported Germany was about to make a move for peace. The published reports were characterized as being based on inferences.