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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime—Strong winds and *
* gales from eastward with snow *
* or sleet in southern districts. *

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Fighting North of Verdun Diminishing in Violence

**French Official Report is More Encouraging---French Have
Launched Fresh Attack on the Enemy's Works---The
Kaiser Directing German Attack.**

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The fighting north of Verdun is diminishing in violence, the War Office announced today. No attack by the Germans was attempted last night. The official statement admits that the French have fallen back to the rear of Beaumont. The text of the statement follows:

"To the east of Vauquois we have launched fresh attacks on the enemy's works in the region of the forest of Cheppy. Intermittent artillery activity has been carried on between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse. In the district to the north of Verdun the cannonade has diminished in violence and the enemy made no attack on our positions during the night. We have established organized positions in the rear of Beaumont on the heights stretching to the east of Champ Neuville and to the south of Ornes. The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

GERMAN KAISER HAD THE TROOPS REHEARSE THEIR PROPOSED ATTACK ON VERDUN

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The Petit Parisien correspondent at the front says that the great German offensive against Verdun is under the personal direction of Emperor William, who arrived at general headquarters on Saturday last and who, in order that nothing should go wrong, immediately ordered that a sort of dress rehearsal of the coming attack be held. At a given signal, the correspondent says, every infantryman and gunner took the post assigned to him in advance and the motions of a general attack were gone through behind the lines. The Emperor seemingly was satisfied, and gave the order to begin the offensive on Sunday night.

The French losses are declared to be insignificant in comparison with those of the Germans. The German artillery preparation, which reached its height on Tuesday, was of unparalleled violence. Every inch of ground was searched out, every point where it was thought a French position might exist was littered with shell, but the French infantry was so well hidden that when the German batteries grew silent and the German infantry advanced to the attack, Frenchmen sprang up from the holes in the ground and opened a deadly fire with machine guns while shells from the 75 millimetre guns flew overhead and mowed down wave after wave of the Germans as they plodded doggedly over the snow-covered ground, urged on from behind, the correspondent adds, by their officers, revolver in hand.

FRENCH TROOPS HAD EXPECTED THE GERMAN ONSLAUGHT ON VERDUN AND ARE PREPARED FOR IT

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Times this morning says it has information that the French are more than usually confident and serene and are inclined to contemplate the German onslaught with considerable satisfaction. The Times correspondent at Paris hints that dynastic reasons led the Germans to attack Verdun. He expresses the belief that General Von Bothmer has been brought from the eastern front to conduct the operations and admit that the Crown Prince's army has been heavily reinforced from Metz.

"Fortunately, however," the correspondent says, "the element of surprise was totally missing from the Crown Prince's operations. The French had been long preparing to meet a move toward Verdun. All that is feared is some fresh scientific devilry such as the first surprise gas attack. There are indications in this offensive leading to the theory that the war is rising against the stagnation imposed upon it by the French. It is argued that artillery fire has become so terrific that the trenches become monotonous as a defence, and consequently there has been a necessary partial return for the moment to a war of movement."

CAPTURED STEAMER WESTBURN THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN USED BY HUNS AS COMMERCE RAIDER

Toronto, Feb. 25.—A cable to the Globe from London says. The capture of the British steamer Westburn, which put into Teneriffe yesterday in charge of a German prize crew, believed to have been from the German raider Moewe, has ended in a highly dramatic manner. She was taken out of the harbor by her German crew today, and blown up in sight of a British cruiser which was lying in wait to recapture her just outside of the three mile limit. A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Madrid says that when the Westburn was captured her name was changed to the Moewe and that original German raider named Moewe was then sunk. This action was taken, the despatch adds, because the original Moewe had been badly damaged.

Despatches indicate that the exploits of the Westburn's German crew were fully as remarkable as those of the prize crew which brought the steamer Appam into Newport News.

JAP FLEET FOR INDIAN OCEAN.

TOKIO, Feb. 25.—The Japanese navy department announced that four warships are being sent to the Indian ocean to replace other Japanese units there. The report that a Japanese fleet has been sent to the Mediterranean is stated to be unfounded.

BRITISH DRIVEN BACK.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 25 (via London).—The British forces in Mesopotamia made an attack on the Turkish position at Flahie, below Kut-el-Amara, the War Office announced, but were driven back with considerable losses.

HUNS MAKING LAST BIG DRIVE

Paris, Feb. 25.—German troops taking part in the operations before Verdun were given to understand that this was to be the last and great offensive against France, according to statements made by prisoners reported in the Paris newspapers this morning.

The following phrase is quoted from an order published by General Von Deimling, commander of the Fifteenth German army corps, on the eve of the Verdun battle:

"In the course of the last offensive against France, I hope that the Fifteenth army corps will distinguish itself as it has done in the past."

Demand Release Of Teutonic Prisoners

Washington, Feb. 25.—The United States today instructed Ambassador Page at London to make inquiries at the British Foreign Office regarding the removal of 38 Germans, Austrians and Turks from the American steamship China, in Asiatic waters, and to demand the release of the prisoners if they were arrested on the high seas, as has been indicated.

SEIZED GERMAN VESSELS TO BE USED FOR TRANSPORTS

(Canadian Press.)
LISBON, Feb. 25 (via Paris).—The official gazette publishes two decrees regarding the thirty-six German and Austrian vessels seized yesterday in the Togos river and placed under the Portuguese flag.

The first indicates the work of refitting to be performed in order to adapt these vessels for the transport and other purposes for which they have been requisitioned, as it is dis-

tingly given to be understood that they have not been confiscated.

The second decree appoints a committee to supervise the execution of the work indicated.

Portuguese newspapers say that in other parts of the republic there are eighty German and Austrian vessels, which it is understood will also be requisitioned by the government. The total tonnage of the Teutonic ships exceeds 150,000 tons.

Germans Claiming Important Captures

Berlin, Feb. 25 (via London).—The German War Office announced today the capture of all French positions in the region north of Verdun, as far as the ridge of Loudemont, just south of Beaumont. The number of prisoners has been increased by more than 7,000 to over 10,000.

Capture of the fortified villages and farms of Champ Neuville, Cottellat, Marmont, Beaumont, Chambrette and Ornes was announced today by the War Office.

Heavy Snow Storm On Battle Front

Paris, Feb. 25.—Snow is falling heavily throughout France. In Paris the snow fall has been very heavy since 4 o'clock this morning, having attained a depth of five inches at noon.

Traffic in the city is being hampered greatly. The blanket of snow has deadened street noises and there is a peculiar silence over the city, broken only by the whirr of the screws of aeroplanes on scout duty above.

The storm is in progress along the battle front. At some places the cold is intense.

There is a heavy fall of snow as far south as Avignon.

TO VISIT RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 25.—An undated despatch from Bucharest to Reuter's Telegram Company says that M. Filipescu, former Roumanian Minister of War, will depart on Sunday for Petrograd, on his way to the Russian front. M. Filipescu is leader of the Conservatives, and frequently has expressed sympathy for the Entente Allies.

MORE GERMAN VESSELS HAVE BEEN SEIZED

St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, Feb. 25.—Eight German steamships lying in the harbor here were taken in charge yesterday by officials of the Portuguese government.

Mr. A. W. Covey of St. John, is at the Barker House.

Bomb Was Placed On Holt Line Boat

Rio Janeiro, Feb. 25.—Bahia newspapers say that a box containing a bomb was put on board the Lamport & Holt line steamer Tennyson at Bahia, at the request of a German merchant, by a person whose identity has not been discovered. The investigation begun by the authorities is being actively pursued.

It was announced on February 22nd that the Tennyson the previous day had put into port at Maranhao, badly damaged as the result of an explosion believed by some to have been caused by an infernal machine, and as a result of which three of the crew, an American, an Englishman and a Dutchman, were killed.

BURCHILL-GARDEN WEDDING AT ST. JOHN

(St. John Telegraph.)

An interesting event took place at 4.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon in St. Paul's (Valley) church, when J. Percy Burchill, of Nelson, Northumberland county, was united in marriage to Miss Jean Gordon Garden, daughter of Mrs. and the late Julius T. Garden, formerly of Woodstock, and now residing in this city. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. C. Alder, the locum tenens, assisted by Archdeacon Forsythe, of Chatham.

The bride wore a becoming traveling costume of sand color, trimmed with Alaskan sable, hat of sand colored crepe de chene with touches of coral pink, and wore a corsage bouquet of pale pink roses. She was attended by Miss Elsie Jardine, of Shediac, as bridesmaid, wearing a tailored suit of dark green with black and white hat. David Ritchie, of Newcastle, acted as groomsman.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Burchill left by the Boston train for a wedding trip to Boston and New York, and on their return will reside in Nelson, where Mr. Burchill is associated in the lumbering business with his father.

Hon. John P. Burchill and Mrs. Burchill, parents of the bridegroom, and his sister, Miss Burchill, were present at the ceremony.

We will reduce our beautiful collection of blooming plants and cut flowers fifty per cent. for tomorrow only—J. Bebbington & Son.

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL TELLS OF ANOTHER PLOT HATCHED BY THE GERMANS

**The Object is to Humiliate and Discredit
The United States in Connection
With the Latest Piracy Proposals.**

(Canadian Press.)

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 25.—The Providence Journal, in the course of a lengthy article today, says:

"The Providence Journal is in receipt of information direct from German Embassy sources, which proves the existence of a plot to draw the United States into humiliation and discredit from which there can be no escape, in connection with the attempt that is now being made to force the demand that Americans refrain from crossing the ocean on passenger steamers carrying armament."

"The plot furthermore, if carried to a successful conclusion, would enable the German Admiralty to sink any unarmed merchant ship leaving an American port, and to destroy its entire crew and passengers, without any possibility of the United States Government making a protest."

VON JAGOW'S STATEMENT WAS PART OF THE PLOT TO EMBARRASS THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

"The statement made voluntarily to the Associated Press by Herr Von Jagow in Berlin two weeks ago, that the United States Government had made new and additional demands on Germany in connection with the Lusitania matter, was in the hands of Count Von Bernstorff before it was given out in Berlin. This Von Jagow statement was part of the plot to embarrass the administration and discredit it. The new demand, made through certain members of Congress whose fidelity to German wishes has become a matter of daily comment in Washington, was originated in the German embassy, and sprang from the fertile brain of Dr. Heinrich Albert. Two weeks ago Dr. Albert, with Count Von Bernstorff, sent word to every propagandist sheet in the country to begin the publication of statements practically threatening a condition of war with Germany unless the United States Government agreed to the latest Lusitania offer, and warning American citizens from travelling on armed passenger ships on the Atlantic."

WILL ENDEAVOR TO SINK MUNITION SHIPS LEAVING AMERICAN PORTS FOR EUROPE

"Within the next few days a number of the largest shipments of ammunition that have yet been made are scheduled to leave this country for Great Britain and France. Every effort is to be made by Germany to sink these ships, utterly regardless of whether they carry American or other passengers or whether they are armed or not. If the United States should agree to issue a warning to its citizens to keep off vessels that carry arms for defence, such a warning, carrying with it the presumption that the United States favors Germany's view, that such vessels are warships, Count Von Bernstorff has arranged in advance a scheme which will put every Allied merchantman at the mercy of German submarines, whether armed or not. This is to be accomplished by the simple method of declaring, after such wholesale murder takes place, that while the particular vessel was not armed when she left an American port, armament had been placed aboard her on the high seas after her departure."

PRESIDENT WILSON OPPOSED TO CONGRESS TAKING ANY ACTION ON PIRACY PROPOSALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—President Wilson reiterated his opposition to any action in Congress warning Americans off of armed ships, in a conference early today with Speaker Clark, majority leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and they in turn told the President that if such a resolution was brought to a vote in the House it would be passed by a majority of 2 to 1. The President was unshaken in his position that Congress should take no action embarrassing his contention that the right of Americans on the seas must be held at any cost, and repeated what he had written last night to Senator Stone.

The House leaders went away telling the President nothing would be done today, but they ventured no prediction for the future. They admitted that the situation was serious, and could not yet tell how far the sentiment in Congress would be swayed by the publication of the President's view in his letter to Senator Stone.

AFRAID OF BRITISH CRUISER.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—According to the Times' Madrid correspondent, the steamer Westburn was destroyed in order to avoid being taken by a British cruiser, which left Teneriffe immediately after the arrival of the Westburn, with the intention of capturing her when she left Spanish waters.

With her 206 passengers taken from various vessels on board, the Westburn, on her way to Teneriffe, passed several British and French warships without exciting suspicion. The Times despatches state that she was under the command of Captain Badewitz of the German navy. Upon arrival in Santa Cruz harbor, Captain Badewitz was informed by the Spanish authorities that the Westburn would be returned to her British owners if he decided to intern her.