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BRITISH CAPTURED GERMAN POSITIONS ON THE ANCRE

United States Looking For A More Clear Cut Issue

Busy Collecting Information Concerning Ships Torpedoed By the Germans---Already There is Evidence of a Technical Violation of American Rights.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Preliminary reports before the State Department today on the sinking of merchant vessels without warning by German submarines contained evidence of technical violation of American rights, yet the government was holding its peace until some outrage presenting a more clear-cut issue would compel it to act. Information on all ships torpedoed is being collected, and it was stated officially that up to today the situation had not perceptibly changed.

Special attention was given to the report that on the sinking of the British steamer Turino yesterday an American negro sailor lost his life, and to the case of the California, the big ship which was sunk without any warning Wednesday, with the loss of 41 lives.

President Wilson, pursuing his general policy of having the government refrain from any act which might be construed as being prompted by ulterior motives in the crisis, authorized an announcement that bank deposits, merchant ships and other private property of foreigners will not be seized even in case war is declared.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—A Madrid despatch to the Petit Journal says that the German government has announced that it grants a further delay of 48 hours for neutral ships at sea to regain neutral ports.

Germany's original note to the United States announcing the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare stated that neutral ships which were on their way toward ports in the blockade zones on Feb. 1, would be "spared during a sufficiently long period." The note also said that neutrals ships in ports within the barred zone would be given until Feb. 5 to sail, and must take the shortest route out of the restricted zone.

PRESIDENT WILSON IS KEEPING IN CLOSE

TOUCH WITH CABINET AND HIS OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—President Wilson has plans to visit the Capitol and the executive departments frequently from now on, whenever he desires information quickly or wants to take any steps in connection with legislation.

It was said officially today that no surprise or alarm need be felt if the President suddenly goes to the Capitol at any hour of the day, or visits any member of his cabinet.

So many pending questions have to be taken up that the President has found it too slow to call to the White House all the men he desires to see. Mr. Wilson is now making few routine arrangements and is kept practically all his time open for work in connection with the foreign situation.

LANSING DOES NOT THINK THAT THE HUNS ARE

INTENTIONALLY DELAYING GERARD IN BERLIN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Secretary of State Lansing today authorized the following statement: "I am very loath to believe that the German government intentionally is delaying Ambassador Gerard in Berlin on any excuse whatsoever. I would be very much surprised if such a course had been taken." There is absolutely no justification in international law, it was pointed out, for the detention of the ambassador.

GERMANY WILL PAY DAMAGE FOR LOSS OF

LIFE ON NORWEGIAN BOATS SUNK LAST FALL

CHRISTIANIA, via London, Feb. 9.—It is announced that Germany has notified Norway of her intention to pay damages for loss of life on Norwegian boats torpedoed in the Arctic ocean, and also for those killed when two Norwegian boats were sunk in the North Sea last fall.

These cases have been the subject of prolonged negotiations. Germany stipulates that the payment is made without admission of any violation of international law, but out of humane and sympathetic consideration for the hardships suffered by the families of the dead sailors.

MANY AIRPLANES LOST.

BERLIN, via Sayville, Feb. 9.—The Germans lost thirty-four airplanes in January and the British, French and Russians fifty-five, the War Office announced today.

OPPOSITION CONVENTION TOMORROW

The Convention of opponents of the Provincial Government to select candidates for the approaching election will be held at the County Court House tomorrow afternoon, beginning at two o'clock. It promises to be one of the largest and most representative ever held in the county. The feeling in this section against the government, which has misruled and disgraced the province is becoming stronger every day, and it looks as if York is ready for a big overturn.

A delegation of one hundred representative electors gathered at the Opposition Committee rooms yesterday afternoon and secured the consent of Mr. Elwood Burt, Mr. A. B. Kitchen, Mr. P. J. Hughes and Coun. W. P. Lawson, to permit their names to go before the convention tomorrow afternoon. Great enthusiasm prevailed and if the gentlemen named can be induced to accept nomination it is believed that with public opinion in its present state they can redeem the county.

All electors opposed to the methods of the present provincial government, no matter what their party affiliations may be in Federal politics, will be welcomed at the convention.

The Name Was American Anyway

Washington, Feb. 9.—George Washington, the negro fireman who lost his life in the sinking of the British steamer Turino, was reported by Consul Frost today to be "apparently" a "British subject." It was stated that he was born in Alberta, Canada.

CROSS CREEK MAN KILLED.
J. M. McNeill of Cross Creek, is reported in today's casualty list as killed in action.

GERMANS EXPECT THE U. S. TO DECLARE WAR

Government Was Not Surprised When Diplomatic Relations Were Cut off—Chancellor Belittles American Naval Power.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Berne dated Feb. 8th says: "The German newspapers in particular close touch with the government are preparing the public for a declaration of war by the United States. The semi-official Strasburg Post published yesterday a letter from its Berlin correspondent in which the following explicit statements were made:

"The Chancellor declared in a secret sitting of the main committee of the Reichstag that he had reckoned with the possibility that the United States would break off diplomatic relations owing to the unrestricted submarine campaign. The German government therefore was not surprised when this happened and will not be surprised by a declaration of war on the part of the United States against us. America's naval power does not alarm our navy. Our submarines of the latest type, cannot, owing to the invisibility of their periscopes, be easily attacked by large warships, whereas, for the same reason, they can be very dangerous to the latter, because they can approach within a few hundred yards and fire a torpedo before they can be seen."

To Look After German Interests

Tokio, Feb. 9.—Switzerland has taken over Germany's interests in Japan, which were cared for by the United States before its breach with Germany.

To Leave Berlin On Saturday

Berlin, Feb. 8.—Via London, Feb. 9.—United States Ambassador Gerard and his party will leave Berlin Saturday evening, although the date has not been settled definitely.

BRITISH LINES MOVED FORWARD ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ANCRE

An Advance of Five Hundred Yards on A Frontage of Three Miles---Enemy Compelled to Abandon Many Gun Positions.

With the British Forces in France, Feb. 8 (via London).—The recent fighting in the moonlight and across the frozen snow, in temperature near zero, has carried the British lines well forward on both sides of the Ancre, in the section of Miraumont, one part of the operations being the occupation of Grandcourt, which was officially announced last night.

For some time the British have been gradually improving their positions in the Ancre sector, but the latest and most important phase began on Saturday night, when, under a moon almost too brilliant for their purpose, the English troops swept forward 500 yards over a frontage of three-quarters of a mile, taking 200 prisoners. This was north of the river, and since then the pressure has been from the south.

Enemy Troops Forced by the British to Abandon the Village of Grandcourt

On Tuesday night the British occupied a long section of a trench just west of Grandcourt, and on Wednesday patrols were sent out who reported that Grandcourt had been evacuated, and that the enemy had retired toward Miraumont, after abandoning many gun positions.

This was due to the fact that the British had reached a position where the guns could rake Grandcourt from three sides. Still pressing forward in the north, Gen. Haig's forces took Baillecourt farm today after a brief resistance.

British staff officers pointed out the significance of these latter advances in view of the German official statement of yesterday, which claimed the recapture of trenches occupied on Saturday. These officers say that the subsequent events are the best proof that the German statement was untrue.

Grandcourt was badly smashed, but bits of walls still standing distinguish it from some of the other villages, which were completely flattened and pulverized.

The British Tommies Were Able to Dine On Rations Captured from the Enemy

German stores of provisions were found in the village and the British Tommies dined today on German rations. Meagre details of the breach of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany have reached the German soldiers in the front line trenches, according to the statement of prisoners taken by the British today.

At Baillecourt farm, north of Grandcourt, eighty men and one officer of the 85th German infantry regiment were captured. Most of them were from Hamburg and were formerly engaged in the shipping trade, and spoke English fluently. One of the prisoners said that he had heard from his own sources that America had broken off relations, but that he did not know exactly what this would lead to.

Another prisoner, shrugging his shoulders, said: "It makes no difference now who comes into the war; we don't care; for me the war is finished and the sooner all is over the better it will be."

GERMAN ATTACK REPULSED.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—A German attack last night on the region of Vaux les Palameux, southeast of Verdun, was repulsed by the French, today's official statement says. Violent artillery actions occurred in the Woivre region. Last night and this morning bombs were dropped by airplanes in the region of Dunkirk. Four civilians were killed.

BRAZIL GETS A NOTE.

RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 9.—Brazil has received from Austria Hungary a note identical to that of Germany respecting submarine warfare. In reply the government has sent a protest to Vienna identical with that already despatched to Berlin.