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# The Daily Mail

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\* The Weather. \*  
\* Maritime: Fresh northerly \*  
\* winds, fair, not much change in \*  
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## AMERICAN STEAMER HAS BEEN TORPEDOED BY THE GERMANS

### British Successes on the Somme Delight the French

#### Paris Military Writers Believe the Enemy is Preparing to Evacuate Bapaume and Peronne---Staff Headquarters Said to Have Been Moved Back Ten Miles.

PARIS, March 14.—Great importance is attached by French military writers to the continued British successes on the Somme.

The *Matin* says that it looks very much as if the Germans do not think they can hold Bapaume and Peronne any longer and are preparing to evacuate the two cities. Reports from aviators show that all along their inner lines the Germans are blowing up bridges and culverts, burning munitions and provisions, while trying to mask the withdrawal of heavy guns by heavy firing with field guns. German staff headquarters on the Somme front is said to have been moved back ten miles. The *Matin* thinks that the German staff at first planned a strategic retreat so as to delay and upset the British plan of attack, but that this scheme was frustrated by the tactics of General Gough. Instead of using cavalry against his retreating foe, General Gough maintained contact by the methodical and destructive use of artillery. The result, according to the *Matin*, was that the Germans were caught in their own trap and their retreat, which was at first intentional, became almost a rout under the continuous pressure of an adversary superior in material and in initiative.

LONDON, March 14.—A German withdrawal on a great scale on the western front is foreshadowed by Major Moraht in an article in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, which is quoted in a Rotterdam despatch to the *Daily News*. Major Moraht recalls Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's strategy against the Russians at Tannenberg, when he caused parts of his army to retire fighting, in order to gain ample space for strategical movements. The military critic reminds his readers that Von Hindenburg is now operating in the west, and says that by shortening their present front the Germans are giving their enemies "a desert to advance over—a ground as bad as ever any fighting ground was."

#### German Paper Describes the Capture of Bagdad by the British as a Deplorable Event

AMSTERDAM, March 13.—The *Koelnische Volks Zeitung* does not hesitate to call the taking of Bagdad by the British a deplorable event. It points out that the surrender of Kut was rightly regarded as a heavy blow to British prestige in the East. The present successful offensive will logically have a contrary effect. Generally the German papers admit the British success and do not endeavor to depreciate its significance. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* says that the British occupation of Bagdad produces a situation in the East which demands the most serious attention, not only in military, but in political quarters. It admits that peace negotiations are opened within a time not too remote, every bit of land belonging to Germany and her allies which falls into possession of the enemy will possess the value of a pledge.

#### The Algonquin, an American Steamer, was Torpedoed by Germans Without Warning

LONDON, March 14.—The American steamship *Algonquin*, owned by the American Star Line, of New York, has been torpedoed by a German submarine. The crew was saved.

The *Algonquin* was recently transferred from British registry. She sailed from New York for London on February 20 and was reported to have about eight Americans in her crew. The *Algonquin* was torpedoed without warning, according to a report made by the American consul at Plymouth, who states that all on board were saved. The vessel was torpedoed at six o'clock in the morning. The submarine refused assistance. Twenty-seven men have been landed.

Was Sunk on March 12th.

The *Algonquin* was torpedoed and sunk on March 12th, according to a cablegram received by the owners. Where it took place was not mentioned in the message, which came from Penzance, France. Officers of the American Star Line said the vessel was worth about \$450,000 and that the cargo, consisting mostly of foodstuffs, was worth more than \$1,250,000. There were ten Americans, including the captain, on the *Algonquin*, the owners announced today.

### HEAVY LOSSES SUFFERED BY GERMANS

Paris, March 14.—Two violent counter-attacks were made by the Germans yesterday evening on positions occupied by the French in the Champagne on Monday. The official announcement given out here today says the attacks were repulsed and that the Germans lost heavily in grenade fighting around Maisons de Champagne and Hill 185.

The French captured new trench lines. South of St. Mihiel the French obtained possession of Romainville farm, taking thirty prisoners. They also entered German trenches between the Meuse and Apremont, bringing back a number of prisoners.

German surprise attack near Lassigny and north of Soissons were defeated.

### English Saloons Will be Closed

London, March 14.—Thirty thousand saloons in Great Britain will probably be closed during the next few months, according to the *Mail*. The measure is proposed as a solution of the difficulty arising from the compulsory restriction of the beer output and the brewer are stated to be in practical agreement with the government in regard to the remedy. The closing of the saloons is said to have been suggested by some of the brewers themselves.

### Serbian Hospitals Were Bombarded

Salonika, March 14, via London.—"Enemy aviators again bombarded our hospital at Vortekop," says a Serbian official statement today, "causing heavy loss of life among both patients and personnel. Two English nurses were among those killed."

## BAVARIANS MAKE RAID ON CANADIAN TRENCHES

Two Attempts Made, but Enemy Driven Off Each Time—Dull and Wet Weather Has Interrupted Activity on Canadian Front, but Artillery is Getting in its Work.

(By Stewart Lyon.)

WITH CANADIAN ARMIES IN FRANCE, via London, March 14.—In the mist of last night and the early morning the Bavarians, opposite the Canadians, who are good fighting men, attempted two raids, but were at once driven off. They carried back their wounded with them, but left two dead in the Canadian lines by which the raiders were recognized as Bavarians.

Dull misty weather with occasional rain, persists on the Canadian front, interrupting even the aeroplane activity which was marked over the week-end.

The most notable feature of the operations at present, when the weather permits, is artillery registration—that is, the discovery by actual practice of the range at which various trenches, raids, ammunition dumps, observation posts and gun positions of the enemy can be effectively shelled. For this clear weather is essential. Recently there has been a cessation of trench raids by the Canadians, which were so marked a feature of this part of the front while the ground was hard.

New Method of Anti-Aircraft Guns.

It is universally testified that the anti-aircraft guns are now far more dangerous than a few months ago. This is the result of a new method of use. Instead of firing directly at a plane, as formerly, the gunners fill the air in front of it with a barrage fire through which the plane must pass to cross the enemy lines and secure all the important points by which both sides discover the local condition of trenches, gun positions and concentrations of troops.

## BRILLIANT SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY BRITISH ON THE WESTERN FRONT

### Important Position Overlooking Bapaume Captured From the Germans---Has Been a Most Formidable Artillery Post For the Enemy.

(Staff Correspondence, Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, via London, March 14.—The ridge overlooking Bapaume from the northwest, which had come to be looked upon by the British as a sort of promised land ever since the battle of the Somme began last July, passed into the hands of General Haig's troops today.

For the first time since the great struggle on this front opened, the British have the advantage of the highest ground, and can now look down upon the famous German stronghold and a wide extent of the country beyond. British officers believe that they are now in a position to take Bapaume whenever the word is given.

### From the Captured Position the Huns Have Rained Shells on British Lines for Months

Grevillers was captured last night, and the new British lines stretched along the ridge which runs northwest from that point to the outskirts of Achiel-le-Petit, a point still held by a strong force of Germans.

In this latest forward movement the British have taken possession of the noted Loupart wood, consisting of great clumps of trees situated on the shoulder of the high ridge and overlooking the entire Somme battle front. This wood has masked a great number of German batteries and from it hostile shells have rained upon the British for eight months past.

Its capture has been the source of the highest satisfaction to the British staff, as it was one of the most formidable artillery posts the Germans had established in the western theatre.

### Tommies are Greatly Pleased at Being Able To Find Houses With Real Roofs on Them

The country about Loupart wood and beyond is in quite good shape. As a matter of fact, Grevillers was the first touch of real civilization the Tommies said they have had in many moons. "Why," said one stalwart Australian today, "do you know, there are regular houses in Grevillers with real roofs on the?" What this means to men who have fought so long in the slough of mud of the Somme Valley can only be grasped by those who have lived "mid scenes of hideous destruction."

The Germans have always hitherto had the advantage of the high positions and the villages, possession of which has been so bitterly contested, have been nothing but pulverized ruins, which offered no shelter for the soldiers. Where fires are not burning the country back of the German lines looks green and wonderfully inviting.

### Germans Unable to Withstand the Terrible Continual Bombardment of British Artillery

The German positions on the Loupart line had been completely raked by the British guns on Sunday morning, and that afternoon the heavy artillery commenced its work of destruction. Thirty hours of the terrific bombardment was all that the defenders could withstand. One prisoner said he was the only survivor of a squad of ten who were in a dugout which was blown to bits by a British shell.

TURKS ADMIT LOSS OF BAGDAD.

LONDON, March 14.—The evacuation of Bagdad by the Turks is announced by the Constantinople War Office directly in a statement issued today. The announcement says: "After fighting south of Bagdad on March 10th, our troops withdrew and took up a new position between Bagdad and Samara." Samara is on the Tigris about 75 miles northwest of Bagdad.

CHINA SEVERES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—China has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, taking possession of all German merchant ships in Shanghai, about six in number. The crews have been placed on shore under guard and armed guards have been put on board the vessels. Advice to the Navy Department today from the senior officer in Chinese waters gave no details.