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FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT PRAISES THE GALLANTRY OF CANADIANS; TURKS SAY TWO ALLIED BATTLESHIPS WERE SUNK

HAGUE CONVENTION WAS DISREGARDED

Lord Kitchener Tells of German Inhumanity Towards British Prisoners of War-- Declares That the Huns Are Worse Than the Dervishes of the Soudan-- Has Lost all Respect for Germany as a Military Nation.

London, April 27--The British parliament occupied itself solely today with discussions on the treatment of British prisoners of war in Germany. In both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, gratitude was expressed for the efforts that have been made by the United States to ameliorate the conditions of the prisoners.

Lord Kitchener's speech in the House of Lords, in which, as a soldier he said he lamented what he was convinced was German inhumanity towards British soldiers, was the most notable expression of the day. There were, however, equally striking notes in both Houses, notably by Lord Lansdowne, leader of the opposition, and Lord Cromer, who expressed regret in the House of Lords that the British Admiralty had seen fit to segregate captured German submarine crews, and by Winston Churchill and premier Asquith in the House of Commons, who declared that at the end of the war the British people would exact reparation. No definite course of action concerning the treatment of prisoners was agreed on by either House.

BRITISH SHOT DOWN.

War Secretary Kitchener told the House of Lords that British prisoners had been insulted, maltreated and even shot down by their German captors. He made a statement to the House on this subject, in which he spoke in part as follows:

"I have been forced with reluctance to accept as indisputably true the maltreatment by the Germans of British prisoners. The Hague convention has been flagrantly disregarded by German officers. Our prisoners have been stripped and maltreated in various ways and in some cases the evidence goes to prove that they have been shot in cold blood. Our officers, even when wounded, have been wantonly insulted and frequently struck."

BRUTALITY OF HUNS.

Earl Kitchener said that as a soldier he hitherto had always held officers of the German army in respect, but "constant testimony that has come in, not only from our own escaped prisoners but from French, Russian, Belgian and American sources, has brought it home to all who have sifted the evidence that the inhumanity displayed by the German authorities, toward British prisoners especially, is beyond doubt."

The secretary quoted articles from the conventions adopted at The Hague relating to the treatment of prisoners of war and asserted that they had been disregarded "flagrantly by German officers. He added:

"I think it only fair and right to say that the German hospitals should be excepted in any charges of deliberate inhumanity. There have been indications of a lamentable lack of medical skill and, in individual cases, of neglect and of indifference to suffering on the part of hospital orderlies. On the other hand, there are statements from prisoners who have been released as incapacitated, that there experience in the hospitals did not form any ground for special complaint."

"Treatment of prisoners in the detention camp in Germany varies considerably according to locality. Our men in most cases suffered from the want of food and have received differential treatment: as compared with their French and Russian comrades, and many acts of violence have been

complained of. Latterly, however, there does appear to be a slight improvement in some respects, due, perhaps to visits of inspection made from time to time through the American ambassador.

"Recently some of our officers have been subjected to solitary confinement in retaliation for the supposed ill-treatment of Germans in this country. The Hague convention does not admit of such confinement of prisoners of war, except as an indispensable measure of safety, and I hope before long to obtain some evidence of the manner in which these officers are now being treated by Germany."

WORSE THAN DERVISHES.

"Germany has for many years posed before the civilized world as a great military nation. She has abundantly proved her military skill and courage. But surely it was also for her to set up a standard of military honor and conduct which would gain the respect, if not the friendship, of nations. Instead, she has stooped to acts which will surely stain indelibly her military history and which would vie with the barbarous savagery of the Dervishes of the Soudan."

"I do not think there can be a soldier of any nationality, even amongst the Germans themselves, who is not heartily ashamed of the slur which has been brought upon the profession of arms. The usages of war have not only been outraged by the infliction of cruelties on British prisoners, but by a contrivance which must have arrested your lordship's attention. The Germans have, in the last week, introduced a method of placing their opponents hors de combat, by the use of asphyxiating and deleterious gases and they employ these poisonous methods to prevail when their attack, according to the rules of war, might otherwise have failed."

ROGERS STILL WANTS A KAKI ELECTION

Ottawa, April 27--The cabinet council this afternoon discussed the question of an early election, but it is understood came to no decision.

There is a distinct cleavage among the ministers as to the wisdom of an early dissolution, in view of the present war situation. The Rogers group is keen for an election by summer, if not in June, then in September. Premier Borden, Sir George Foster, Hon. Martin Burrell, General Hughes and the Quebec Ministers are unwilling to take the plunge while the issues of the war are so uncertain.

Tonight, it is said, the ministers met in two opposing groups to discuss the situation and review arguments both for and against an early election. There will be another meeting tomorrow. Present indications seem to point to an indefinite delay in deciding when the appeal to the people shall be made. A June election seems to be fading into the background and Hon. Robert Rogers is not likely to have his way this time.

S. G. Gibson of Hamilton, is registered at the Barker House.

Fred H. Mackey of St. John is in the city.

Paris, April 27--French Cruiser Leon Gambetta has been torpedoed and sunk in the Adriatic Sea presumably by an Austrian submarine. Part of the crew was saved.

Paris, April 28--The French official statement says that the Allies continue to progress north of Ypres, particularly on the left. The enemy's losses are very heavy. Some ground was also gained on the heights of the Meuse. Two hundred thousand French reinforcements are being rushed into West Flanders. Especial mention is made in the reports of the gallantry of the Canadians, who are still fighting desperately on the battlefield.

PEOPLE MAY DECIDE

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Rome, April, 28--Italy's course in the war be submitted to the people. The "Idea Nazionale" states that King Victor Emmanuel has authorized Premier Salandra to order a new National Election if he considers that the welfare of the country demands it.

RESUMED THE DEFENSIVE

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Geneva, April, 28--The Russians have resumed their offensive in the region of Uzsook Pass after a period of nearly a week during which artillery exchanges have been the only operations. The Russian expeditionary force is being sent from Odessa to assist the Allies in operations against Constantinople.

BATTLESHIP REPORTED LOST

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Constantinople, April 28--The Turkish War office announce that two of the Allies' battleships were damaged by the Dardanelles forts and that the coast east of the Gallipoli peninsula has been cleared of allied troops with the exception of Gaba Tepes, where the British are entrenched. There is no confirmation of the report.

MANY GERMAN WOUNDED

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, April 28--Despatches from Belgium says that every hospital there is filled with German wounded. There are 7200 in Bruges alone who fell in the great battle. The Belgian legation announces the capture of several German trenches near Hotsas, together with two hundred prisoners.

SUBMARINES IN BALTIC

Amsterdam, April 28--Four German submarines are now operating in Baltic against shipping from Russian and Finnish Ports, to enforce the embargo recently declared by Germany against Russian shipping.

MORE HARD FIGHTING

London, April 27--A joint war office and Admiralty statement issued tonight on the Dardanelles operations says:--"After days of hard fighting in a difficult country the troops landed on Gallipoli pen-

insula are thoroughly making good their footing with effective help of the navy. The French have taken 500 prisoners."

The statement appends the following, which it says, is officially published at Cario:-