ZEEBRUGGE CANAL BLOCKED AND OSTEND FAIRWAY NARROWED

British Navy's Raid on Flanders Coast is Big Blow to Operations of German Submarines—Obsolete Cruisers Laden With Concrete Sunk to Block Entrance.

A despatch from London says: The net result of the British navy's raid on the Flanders coast, according to a high naval authority, is that the Zeebrugge Canal entrance is effectually blocked, a breach 120 feet long has been made in the viaduct connecting the Mole with the land and the Ostend fairway has been inconveniently narrowed, but not wholly blocked.

The Zeebrugge Canal is much more important to the German navy's operations in the channel than Ostend, as it was through Zeebrugge that U-boats constructed at Antwerp were brought to the coast, also munitions and general supplies for coast defence. Zeebrugge harbor has been daily dredged by two dredges owing to the perpetual shifting of the sand. The British sunk one of these dredges. The other was damaged, so that with a breach in the viaduct and a south-west or westerly wind the sand shifting has proceeded rapidly, and it will take the Germans some time to overcome it.

The removal of the blockships across the canal's mouth also is a slow and delicate job, because the use of heavy charges would still further injure the entrance walls of the canals, and the blockships were constructed in a peculiar manner so as to give them high resisting power. For a time the Germans must use Ostend instead of Zeebrugge as their chief refuge, thus bringing them further down the channel than they like.

The raid was a splendid enterprise, ably and ingeniously planned, magnificently executed and showing the dauntless pluck of the British navy with its inspiring moral effect.

GERMAN LOSSES EXCEED 5,000,000

600,000 Killed and Wounded in Recent Great Offensive.

A despatch from London says: German losses in killed and wounded in the great offensive amounted to no less than 600,000 men, according to reliable information received from Scandinavian sources. These figures, which are, of course, unofficial, come from trustworthy sources. There has been much discussion as to the motive behind the disclosure of Karl Bleibtreu, in Neuve Europa, that the German losses up to the end of January this year amounted to 4,456,000 men killed, wounded, and prisoners, excluding the navy and colonial troops, auxiliary forces, and deaths due to sickness. Combined with the figures of the recent battles Germany's total losses now exceed 5,000,000. The total given by Bleibtreu far exceed anything Germany had previously admitted. There is a suggestion that Bleibtreu's article was intended to minimize proportionately the recent losses on the western front, which are causing serious disturbances in Germany. When the enormous casualties of the battlefield are added to the increased rate of mortality of the civilian population, it is clear Germany's losses cannot be recovered in a generation.

Kaiser Hurries To Zeebrugge But Not To Give Iron Crosses

A despatch from London says:—The Kaiser visited Zeebrugge personally on Tuesday, it is officially admitted from Berlin, and inspected the damage occasioned by the British raid.

BRITISH AND GERMAN TANKS MEET

Fought in Fields Near Amiens With Victory For British.

A despatch from the British Armies in France says: For the first time the British and German tanks have met in battle and the victory is for the British. They fought on Wednesday in the open fields around Villers-Bretonneux and east of Amiens, where the enemy made a determined and for a moment successful attack upon that town and the high ground around it.

The German tanks led the attack, swinging on the town from the north-east and from south, and in their wake came the infantry with machine guns, heavy mortars and light artillery. Altogether there were four or five tanks. They were bulky and ungainly creatures, quite unlike the British tanks in appearance, with a broad squat turret containing quick-firing guns.

The British tanks came up during the morning, and the German tanks —when they saw them approaching —started forward through the shell fire to engage them. They concentrated their guns on one British tank, but others came to the rescue and in the brief duel that followed one enemy tank was put out of action by its opponent of less bulk and lighter armament, while the others scuttled away.

PUBLISH U-BOAT SINKINGS ONCE A MONTH IN FUTURE.

A despatch from London says: The Admiralty has announced the cessation of the weekly return of shipping losses and the substitution of a monthly report on the Thursday morning following the 21st of each month.

ENEMY REPULSED IN TREMENDOUS DRIVE FOR AMIENS

British Line Restored South of Somme River—Slight Retirement Before Furious Attacks of Foe on Meteren-Wytschaete Line.

A despatch from London says: The great double German drive in the Somme and Armentieres sectors, which began on Wednesday morning, has developed into a terrific struggle. The British, having been forced back out of Villers-Bretonneux, launched a counter-attack, re-took the village and swept the Germans back almost to the lines which were held before the present fighting began. The Australians assisted in the victory. The French have been driven back out of Hangard-en-Santerre, but are holding their positions close by, while on the line south-west of Ypres, the British have been compelled to withdraw slightly before furious attacks along the Meteren-Bailleul-Wytschaete line.

Wounded Americans are arriving at a hospital behind the French line in the Somme sector, showing that Gen. Pershing's men are bearing their share of the burden of the great battle.

Notwithstanding the frantic preparations made by the Germans for a continuance of their drive toward Amiens and the extreme violence of the fighting, the gains thus far in that region have been trifling. Along the line from Albert south to Castel except at Hangard-en-Santerre, the German assaults have been hurled back by the allied forces, which are strongly posted on the higher ground to which they retired during the last days of the German drive in Picardy.

It is unofficially reported that from four to six German divisions, or from 48,000 to 72,000 men, have been hurled at the British and French lines near Ypres. The retirement of the British in this sector must have been small, for there are no gains reported by Berlin so far.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, April 30—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.23½; No. 2, do., $2.20½; No. 3, do., $2.17½; No. 4 wheat, $2.10½; in store Fort William, including 2½c tax.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 91½c; No. 3 C.W., 88½c, in store Fort William.

American Corn—No. 3 yellow, kiln dried, $1.90, nominal; No. 4 yellow, kiln dried, $1.85, nominal.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 91 to 92c; No. 3 white, 90 to 91c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $2.22; basis in store Montreal.

Peas—No. 2, $3.60 to $3.70, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.52 to $1.53, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.84 to $1.86, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $2.65, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—War quality, $11.10, new bags, Toronto.

Ontario flour—War quality, $10.80, new bags, Toronto and Montreal freights, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $35.40; shorts, per ton, $40.40.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, $17 to $18; mixed, $14 to $16, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8.50 to $9, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Eggs—New laid, 39 to 40c; selected, new-laid, 42 to 43c; cartons, 43 to 44c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, 49 to 50c; do., prints, 51 to 52; do., fresh made, 52 to 53c; choice dairy prints, 42 to 43c; ordinary dairy prints 38 to 40c; bakers', 36 to 38c.

Oleomargarine (best gr.)—32 to 33c.

Cheese—New, large, 23 to 23½c; twins, 23¾ to 23¾c; spring made, large, 25 to 26c; twins, 25½ to 26½c.

Beans—Canadian, prime, bushel, $7.50 to $8; Foreign, hand-picked, bushel, $6.75 to $7.

Comb honey—Choice, 16 oz., $3.50 per dozen; 12 oz., $3 per dozen; seconds and dark comb, $2.50 to $2.75.

Maple syrup—Imperial gallons, $2.25; 5-gallon tins, $2.10 per gallon; maple sugar, per pound, 24 to 25c.

Provisions—Wholesale

Smoked meats—Hams, Medium, 36 to 38c; do., heavy, 30 to 32c; cooked, 47 to 49c; rolls, 31 to 32c; breakfast bacon, 41 to 44c; backs, plain, 44 to 45c; boneless, 48 to 49c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 29 to 30c; clear bellies, 29 to 30c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 31½ to 32c; tubs, 31¾ to 32¼c; pails, 32 to 32½c; prints, 33 to 33½c. Compound tierces, 26 to 26½c; tubs, 26¼ to 26¾c; pails, 26½ to 27c; prints, 27½ to 28c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, April 30—Oats—Canadian western, No. 3, $1.02; extra No. 1 feed, $1.02; No. 3 local white, $1. Flour—New standard Spring wheat grade, $10.95 to $11.05. Rolled oats—Bags, 90 lbs., $5.50 to $5.60. Bran, $35.40. Shorts, $40.40. Middlings, $48.50. Mouillie, $60 to $62. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, April 30—Cash prices:—Oats—No. 2 C.W., 91½c; No. 3, do., 88½c; extra No. 1 feed, 88c; No. 1 feed, 85½c; No. 2, do., 81½c. Barley—No. 3, $1.51; No. 4, $1.46; rejected, $1.20; feed, $1.17. Flax—No. 1 N.-W.C., $3.87½; No. 2 C. W., $3.83.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, April 30—Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.55 to $1.65. Oats—No. 3 white, 86 to 87c. Flour—Unchanged. Bran—$33.14.

Duluth, Minn., April 30—Linseed—$4.07½ to $4.13½; arrive and May and July, $4.07½; October, $3.57 bid.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, April 30—Extra choice heavy steers, $13.75 to $15; choice heavy steers, $12.75 to $13.50; good heavy steers, $12.25 to $12.50; butchers' cattle, choice, $12.50 to $12.75; do., good, $11.75 to $12; do., medium, $11 to $11.50; do., common, $10 to $10.50; butchers' bulls, choice, $10.75 to $11.25; do., good bulls, $10 to $10.50; do., medium bulls, $9 to $9.25; do., rough bulls, $6.75 to $7.50; butchers' cows, choice, $10.75 to $11.50; do., good, $10.25 to $10.50; do., medium, $9.25 to $9.75; stockers, $9.50 to $11; feeders, $10.50 to $11.50; canners and cutters, $6.50 to $7.50; milkers, good to choice, $90 to $140; do., com. and med., $65 to $80; springers, $90 to $140; light ewes, $13.50 to $16.00; lambs, $18 to $20.50; calves, good to choice, $13.50 to $15.50; hogs, fed and watered, $20; do., weighed off cars, $20.25; do., f.o.b., $19.00.

Montreal, April 30—Choice steers, $12 to $13; good steers, $11 to $12; medium, $10.50; choice butcher bulls, $10.00 to $11.50; medium, $9 to $9.50; choice butcher cows, $10.50; good cows, $9.50 to $10; canners' cattle, $5 to $6; milk-fed calves, $8 to $14; choice select hogs, off cars, $21 to $21.50; sows, $19 to $19.50.

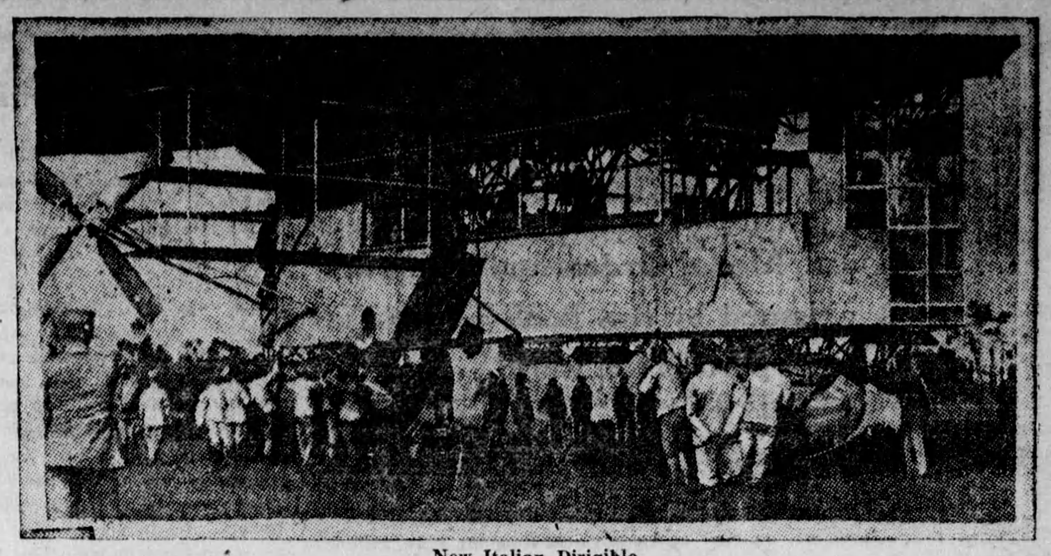
BULGARIANS FIGHTING WITH GERMANS AROUND AMIENS.

A despatch from Paris says: The presence of Bulgarian troops on the western front is now confirmed. It is not known here how large a force is there or what troops are represented, but among the officers is the son of the Bulgarian Minister in Vienna, Toscheff.

In addition to the large force of German troops now attacking the allied line east of Amiens, concentrations are reported further north, opposite Arras, as far as Ypres.

Cauliflower.

To be able to dish a cauliflower whole and unbroken is quite a feat. The surest way of accomplishing it is to boil it in a piece of cheese-cloth, which allows it to be lifted from the kettle without detriment to its appearance.



New Italian Dirigible.

The Forlenini holds the world's altitude record for dirigibles of 17,000 feet, against 13,000 feet made by the Zeppelin. This airship has a carrying capacity of 6,000 pounds.

TROTZKY ASKS ALLIED AID

Bolshevik Official Press Has Become Pro-British.

A despatch from London says:—There is a significant tone toward the allies, especially America, in the Bolshevik official press. From being pro-German it has now become pro-British, above all, pro-American. Leon Trotsky, who emerges once more as the strong man in the situation, is getting a force together which is causing the Germans anxiety in view of their wholesale withdrawal of divisions from the East.

Trotzky apparently is inclined to invite co-operation of the allies to assist in organizing this force which could soon be made effective under proper direction.

There are still, however, four conflicting parties in Russia, each more interested in partisan ends than liberating the country from the German yoke. There is a small refractory counter-revolutionary party aiming at the restoration of the autocracy. Then there are the Constitutional Monarchists, consisting mainly of cadets. The other two parties are the Social Revolutionaries, who are pro-ally, and Soviets, who represent the Bolshevik policy.

CROP CONDITIONS IN WEST WERE NEVER BETTER.

A despatch from Calgary, Alta., says: Crop reports being received from all parts of the province indicate that conditions were never better, and it is estimated that the average increase in acreage seeded will be in the neighborhood of 20 per cent. Cool nights have retarded germination somewhat, but in many parts of the South wheat is above the ground. There are a few complaints of lack of moisture and drying winds blowing off the top soil, but this happens every year in Southern Alberta to a greater or less extent.

Now wells up from the sodden swamp
The peeper's chorus strong,
An orchestra of froglet throats,
Like bubble, filled with song.

GERMANS OCCUPY MOUNT KEMMEL, FOUR AND A HALF MILES FROM YPRES

French Forced to Abandon Important Position—Counter-Attack Launched by Anglo-French Armies.

A despatch from London says:—Kemmel Hill, a height which has been looked upon as the key to the southern side of the Ypres salient and an important strategic position on the northern battle front in France, has been taken by the Germans. After a defence which will become one of the heroic chapters of the war the hill was surrounded and the French forces entrenched on its slopes were overcome.

The Teutons launched terrific attacks along the whole Wytschaete-Bailleul—Meteren line Wednesday, apparently for the purpose of finding a point which might yield. They evidently found that spot in the section of the front held jointly by the British and French troops and against it they hurled fresh divisions which fought their way forward all day Thursday until at nightfall they had surrounded Kemmel Hill, and isolated the French troops holding the position.

All night long the fight went on, and it was not until Friday that the Germans succeeded in storming up the slopes of the height.

The loss of Kemmel Hill is serious, for it overlooks much of the lowlands lying back of the allied lines in the Ypres salient.

A despatch from the British Army in France, says:—The allied arms on Friday were taking the initiative on both the northern and southern ends of the battle front. Friday morning the British and French troops, acting in conjunction, began counter-operations in the region of Mount Kemmel and the neighboring territory which the Germans captured in Thursday's sanguinary struggle.

Mount Kemmel is a deep hill, more than 400 feet high, lying about four miles and a half south and west of Ypres. Its comparatively flat top is oval, being nearly half a mile from south-west to north-east and half that distance from south-east to north-west. Its slopes extend outward into the foothills from a quarter to half a mile. The village of Kemmel lies just at the north-east edge of the heights.

AUSTRIANS LOSE IN MACEDONIA

Successful Operations by British and Serbian Troops.

A despatch from Paris says:—The War Office report, referring to operations in Macedonia, said:

"Late reports confirm the full success of the reconnoitring operation carried out on Wednesday on the north bank of the Devol River. In the course of their advance our troops established that the enemy had suffered very serious losses before abandoning the ground. They brought back about 10 Austrian prisoners. On April 24, British troops carried out a successful raid near Barakili, east of Struma, and the Vetrenik Heights. The Serbian troops have maintained their occupation of the work taken April 21, repulsing new enemy counter-attacks."

GERMAN LOSSES OVER 500,000 SINCE OFFENSIVE BEGAN.

A despatch from London says: A high British authority is informed that the German losses in the great battle have been very high. The French staff estimate puts the total at half a million casualties and other estimates 800,000. At a secret session of the Reichstag, Hindenburg promised that victory could be gained at a cost of 1,000,000 casualties, and afterwards amended it to 1,500,000. The German civilian population is increasingly despondent at the magnitude of the losses.

Americans Build Largest Tank in World.

"America," the largest battle tank in the world, and the first of its kind built for the United States. The giant tank weighs forty-five tons and is operated by steam.

The Doings of the Duffs.