

## GERMANS DETERMINED TO CAPTURE FORTRESS OF VERDUN

Some of the Best Troops in Kaiser's Army Massed  
Before it

A despatch from Paris says: The German losses during the first four days of the battle around Verdun are authoritatively estimated at 150,000.

The German offensive is recognized now as probably only the beginning of a determined effort to take the fortress, formerly the key to the French front, and compares in violence and losses to the battle of the Yser. The French assume the battle may continue for a fortnight. The German forces are known to be at least 300,000, supported by numerous 15-inch and 17-inch Austrian mortars, with all the heavy artillery used in the Serbian campaign and part of that formerly employed on the Russian front.

Preparations for the battle were observed early in December, when the first troops assigned to the operation were brought up. Eight divisions which returned from Serbia were sent to Belgium for a rest and then transported to the region of Verdun in January. Five army corps in all are known to have been brought up to reinforce two corps which previously held that part of the line between Etain and Vauquois.

These were the best troops of the German army, including, as it is learned from prisoners, the famous Third Corps of Brandenburg, supposedly equal in valor to the Prussian Guard, and the Fifteenth Army Corps, commanded by General von Deimling, known in France as one of the most brilliant of the German general officers.

The French compare the ground gained by the Germans in the four days with twice that amount taken by the French in the first two days of their offensive in Champagne, together with eight times the number of prisoners. The confidence of the French is unshaken by the fierce attacks and the slight bending of the French line.

The military critic of The Temps reports that heavy French reinforcements have been brought up. Lieut.-Col. Leonce Rousset, another military critic, relates a conversation he had with a surgeon just returned from Verdun: On February 22, during the present battle, the surgeon saw an entire brigade, which was advancing in close order, caught by the concentrated fire of the French batteries and annihilated in a few minutes.

### German Drive Checked.

A despatch from Paris says: The German assault on Verdun slackened somewhat in intensity on Sunday

over most of the line, which now lies directly under the guns of the forts. Narrowing their most desperate attacks to the short front between the Douaumont heights and the plateau north of the village of Vaux, to the east, the Germans here continued their efforts in a strong attack, but failed to gain ground.

The position of Fort Douaumont—the French official communiques do not call it a fort, but a "position"—was taken by the Germans Saturday and is still occupied by small enemy forces. The French are closing in on this position on three sides, and announce that the German force is maintaining itself in the position only with difficulty.

The very unfavorable weather conditions with a heavy fall of snow may be one reason for the lessening of the force of the German attack; the despatches from the front indicate that heavy losses also may have had an effect. The slopes east and west of the village of Douaumont, which has been the centre of the heaviest fighting, are covered with German dead.

### Situation is Encouraging.

Paris is extraordinarily calm in the presence of the great battle now in progress around Verdun. There are no indications of tension or nervousness, but only sober confidence in the result prevails.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attacks should continue, for, they argue, the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts.

The whole front from the North Sea to Switzerland is on the alert, and all leave of absence has been recalled. The French maximum effort has not yet been made. The total French losses in killed, wounded and prisoners since the Verdun battle began, it was authoritatively stated, have been less than the German official communication claims in prisoners (15,000).

### Snowy Slopes Dyed Red.

Ever since 5 o'clock Friday morning the flower of the German army has been hurling itself in vain against Cote du Poivre on the high plateau behind Louvemont village. They seemed even to welcome the blizzard as giving possible protection from the 75's, but the French gunners know every inch of the ground to a hairsbreadth in the blackest darkness. These snowclad slopes are now colored red.



A Plucky Russian Nurse.

One of the party of Russian nurses who reached England recently on their way home to Russia from Nish, Serbia, where they had been nursing in the Serbian hospitals. They had many narrow escapes and it took them seventy-five days to get to London from Serbia.

## DASH FROM KIEL EXPECTED ANY DAY

London Naval Expert Looks for an Early Battle in the North Sea.

A London cable to the New York Tribune says: "A high naval authority told the Tribune correspondent of a belief widely held in Admiralty circles that the German fleet may make a dash for the open sea at any time now, giving as a reason for this not only the pressure of political opinion in Germany, but the innumerable recent reports all pointing to the preparation of a combined German naval, aerial and military offensive, with the object of forcing peace and impressing neutrals. Vice-Admiral Reinhardt Scheer has been appointed commander of the German battle fleet in succession to Admiral von Pohl, who, after holding the position for a year, is retiring on account of ill-health."

## SIXTY-SEVEN KILLED IN JANUARY AIR RAID.

A despatch from London says: The revised official figures of the casualties in the Zeppelin raid of January 31 over England were given on Friday as 67 killed and 117 injured. The official communication announcing the figures says:

"The final figures of the air raid of January 31 are: Killed, 27 men, 25 women and 15 children, a total of 67; injured, 45 men, 53 women and 19 children, total 117. Grand total, 184.

"These figures are greater than previously given—59 persons killed and 101 injured—because several persons reported injured have died from their wounds, some children under 16 years of age had been returned as adults and several cases of slight injury had been treated at hospitals and sent home without a record being made of them.

"The number of bombs dropped aggregated 393."

## TRADE OF DOMINION TAKES A BIG JUMP.

Ten Months Show an Increase of Nearly \$300,000,000.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The total trade of Canada for the ten months ending with January was \$989,359,000, compared with \$714,465,000 in the same ten months of the preceding year. Imports totalled \$394,094,000 and exports \$595,265,000.

## DUTCH TO WIPE OUT THE SMUGGLING EVIL.

A despatch from Amsterdam says: The Telegraaf says on Friday that the new Dutch Minister of Finance is determined to stamp out smuggling, and has asked for 2,000 new customs officials, who are to be recruited from the military.

## REPLACES PARTS OF FACES DESTROYED BY WOUNDS IN WAR

Mouths, Jaws and Even Eyelids Made to Move Naturally by British Sculptor

A despatch from London says: Derwent Wood, the distinguished British sculptor, who enlisted as a private in the army medical corps at the beginning of the war, is now turning his talent to a unique use. All his leisure time is at present employed in replacing the parts of men's faces destroyed by wounds in battle. These include mouths, jaws and even eyelids, all of which he has made to move naturally.

He has just finished remaking a

nose for a soldier whose nose was blown away below the bridge. His addition, which he prepared of electrically treated metal, is so perfect that where it is joined is absolutely imperceptible, and the patient has regained his sense of smell.

Wood is now giving up most of his time to this work, and is able to treat ten cases daily. Surgeons who never thought that a sculptor's art could be adapted to this work are now absolutely amazed at the remarkable results Wood has obtained.

## GREAT HEROISM OF ITALIAN AIRMAN

Wounded in Head and Blinded by Blood He Brings Dead Comrades Down.

A despatch from Rome says: Details now made public concerning the recent Italian air raid on Laibach reveal the heroism of Capt. Salomone, pilot of one of the Italian aeroplanes. On his return journey Capt. Salomone's machine was attacked by five Austrian Fokkers. He was severely wounded in the head and temporarily blinded by blood, while two other officers aboard the aeroplane, one of whom was Lieut.-Col. Barbieri, were killed outright. Despite the difficulty of steering, the bodies of his dead comrades having fallen over the levers Salomone refused to surrender. He succeeded in returning, and landed at Talmanova. Salomone is now recovering in a hospital. A medal has been awarded to him for valor.

## CANNOT TAKE ALBANIAN POSITIONS

Italians Have so Fortified Them as to Make Them Stand Any Attack.

A despatch from Rome says: The commander of the Italian troops at Avlona, in Albania, has declared that his positions are now so fortified as to be ready to stand any attack, and he is even able to take the offensive if necessary. His second in command has undertaken to instruct the Albanian troops according to the Italian system of warfare.

## BERLIN OFFERS PRIZES FOR NEW NAME OF CITY.

A despatch from Berlin, Ont., says: Canadians will have an opportunity of offering suggestions for the new name of this city. A public subscription is being raised, and liberal prizes will be offered for first, second and third choices. Suggestions will have to be accompanied by reasons why the name should be chosen, and the competition will be Dominion-wide. The judges will be named by the City Council.

## PERSIAN CITY OF KERMANSHAH STORMED BY RUSSIAN ARMIES

"Impregnable" Turkish Forts on the Highroad to Bagdad Crowning Victory of Campaign

A despatch from London says: The Persian city of Kermanshah, on the highroad to Bagdad, has been successfully stormed and captured by the Russian armies, according to a Petrograd despatch to Reuters.

The capture of the city, whose strong natural defences were believed to make it almost impregnable, is the

crowning victory of an apparently unimportant and unnoticed campaign in the mountain regions of Persia between an invading Russian army and hordes of loosely organized Kurd and mountain forces under the command of skilled German and Turkish officers, and well equipped with modern guns.

## Kuropatkin to Command Russian Northern Front

A despatch from Petrograd says: Gen. Alexei Kuropatkin has been appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian armies on the northern front.

The appointment of Gen. Kuropatkin was made in consequence of the illness of Gen. Pleve, who succeeded to the command when Gen. Russky's health failed in December last.

## South Africans Rout Turks in Egypt

A despatch from London says: A Turkish column was attacked and routed by South African troops on

Saturday at Agagia, Egypt, according to a British official statement issued Sunday night, which adds that the fleeing Turks are being pursued.

## OVER 90,000 CHEQUES MADE OUT

More Than a Third of Soldiers Assign Part of Their Pay.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The monthly payments of assigned pay or separation allowances to relatives or dependents of the men under arms now aggregate more than \$2,000,000. More than 90,000 cheques are made out each month by the branch dealing with this part of the work. Over one-third of the soldiers who have enlisted are now giving part of their pay to friends or dependents at home, and about one-quarter of the total force, representing approximately the married men, are on the list for separation allowance. It is interesting to note that the proportion of the men who are assigning their pay is considerably larger among the recruits of the past few months than was the case with the men who went overseas at first. This is accounted for on the ground that a considerably larger proportion of the later recruits are Canadian-born, and have

dependents or relatives in Canada. With the first and second contingents a large percentage was composed of unmarried men who were born in Great Britain and who had no family ties or dependents in this country.

## GREATEST WAR BRAIN BRED SINCE NELSON.

London Papers Demand that Fisher Resume Naval Command.

A despatch from London says: The British Weekly, which recently suggested Lord Northcliffe as Air Defence Minister, now cries for Lord "Jacky" Fisher to resume the naval command, "lacking whom," says the Weekly, "England will lack the greatest war brain she has bred since Nelson. The greatest war ever waged has produced very few war brains. Only one man has beaten the Germans in brain power, and that man is Lord Fisher."

## ESSEN BANK QUITS; KRUPP WORKERS LOSE.

A despatch from Zurich says: The Rheinische Bank at Essen has liquidated, according to reports received here. Hundreds of workmen in the Krupp Works have lost their savings.

## BRITISH MINISTERS' SALARIES TO BE PARTLY PAID IN BONDS

Premier Asquith Declines to Move That Members Receive No Salaries

A despatch from London says: In response to strong agitation by the newspapers to set the country an example of economy, preferably by accepting reductions in their salaries, it is announced that the Ministers have agreed for the future to accept one-quarter of their salaries in the form of five per cent. Exchequer bonds. It

is considered extremely probable that the whole body of the civil servants will be invited to accept a portion of their salaries in a similar form of Exchequer or war loan bonds.

In reply to an interrogation in the House of Commons, Premier Asquith declined to move that the members of Parliament should receive no salaries.