

Contact With Boches Lost By Canadians in Holland; Enemy Withdrawal Certain

Slight Opposition at Oldersum Fails to Check Advance

(By Ross Munro, Canadian Press
War Correspondent)

With 1st Canadian Army, May 4.—(CP Cable)—Canadian forces on the northwest German front have lost all contact with the enemy except at Oldersum, four miles south of Emden, where the 3rd Division has encountered some opposition.

No Enemy to Meet

Polish troops on the right of the 3rd are pushing northeast in the direction of Wilhelmshaven, and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division is operating northwest of fallen Oldenburg. Neither formation is meeting the enemy.

The 2nd Canadian Division advanced five miles north of Oldenburg without resistance. The withdrawal of enemy forces into the strongholds of Emden and Wilhelmshaven has been going on night and day. The only things preventing a swift Canadian advance on Wilhelmshaven are blown bridges, cratered roads and boggy terrain.

On the west Holland front,

where the 1st Canadian Division is operating, the distribution of food to Dutch civilians inside crumbling "fortress Holland" is continuing. There has been no interruption in the local truce there.

The Germans agreed that Red Cross and United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration personnel may enter German-occupied western Holland if needed, as the Dutch relief plan develops, it was learned to-day.

Meanwhile developments were anticipated which might result in German capitulation along the North sea coast.

Following Oldenburg's occupation, the Germans withdrew towards Wilhelmshaven and evidence was increasing that the enemy in this northwest German pocket was going to withdraw into that port and Emden, where they will hold out if Grand Admiral Doenitz, Hitler's successor, doesn't alter his keep-fighting orders.

The 4th Canadian Division completed encirclement of Zwischenahner lake, nine miles northwest of Oldenburg, and a column advanced eight miles northeast to cut the Oldenburg-Wilhelmshaven railway.

A handful of policemen were left in Oldenburg to surrender to Canadians, the largest German city captured by the 1st Canadian Army.

Actually its fall was an anti-climax to two weeks of bitter fighting waged for its approaches and a two-hour telephone conversation resulted in the occupation.

There was some sniping after darkness fell and the South Saskatchewan Regiment retaliated with a 17-pounder tank gun, but the garrison soon withdrew.

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