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Germans Sweep On; Are But Two Miles From Marne Advance Less Swiftly in Centre But Press Back Allied Left Flank

ave Virtually Linked up Present Battlefield With That of the Somme—Enemy Attacks in Soissons Area and to South Fail, While Allied Right Holds Firmly

Keeping the tide of their advance in the centre flowing strongly toward the Marne, although seemingly less swiftly, the Germans simultaneously have executed a stroke on the allied left flank that has extended the battle line westward and virtually linked up the present battlefield with that on the Somme.

The attack was delivered along the Ailette River, north-east of Soissons, sweeping forward in the salient that projected between the Somme and the Aisne battlefields, the Germans drove the Allied battle line back so that it now runs westward from the vicinity of Soissons through Epeigny and Bernicourt to the Oise River, apparently at its point of junction with the Oise Canal, about eight miles east of Noyon.

The Noyon area was included within the field of the German offensive in March, when the French established their lines along the Oise and the Oise Canal to the east and thence west of that town after being driven back below St. Quentin. The German drive down the Oise Valley towards Paris was then checked. The present offensive movement suggests the possibility of its resumption.

The advance in the centre has now brought the Germans within two miles of the Marne at one point. The wedge reappears increasingly narrow, however, and on its flanks the French are holding their positions as reported.

The French are holding their positions as reported. The probability of German penetration right up to the banks of the Marne is not so great as it was in the Somme region, where the advance of the Germans to Chateau-Thierry and Domains, of which towns are on the Marne River. The civilian population has left Chateau-Thierry and some of the refugees from it have already passed through Paris for the interior.

On the British front the Germans are active with their artillery east of the Ailette and in the Albert region to the north as well as on portions of the Somme front, but no infantry movements of note are reported.

LIED LEFT FLANK GIVES. The Allied left flank on the Aisne front has been forced back by violent German attacks in the region of the Ailette River. This is announced officially in a despatch from the British War Office today.

In the centre the Germans made a slight advance north of the Marne, where they were met by a counter-attack won back the town of Thillois, west of Rheims.

Paris, May 31.—Withdrawing before the German onslaught in the region of the Ailette the French fell back on positions north of Epeigny (nine miles east of Noyon), and Epeigny (seven miles north of Soissons).

The French are holding their positions along the road between Soissons and Chateau-Thierry, as well as in the western outskirts of Soissons.

Paris, May 31 (5.45 a. m.)—The Germans continued to push forward south of Fere en Tardenois, according to the latest despatch reaching Paris, but neither Chateau-Thierry nor Domains have yet fallen into their hands.

There is reason to hope that Chateau-Thierry, the population of which has fled, will be saved.

Chateau-Thierry is ten miles south of Fere en Tardenois, while Domains is six miles south of Veully. Both towns are on the River Marne.

British Report. London, May 31.—Activity by the German artillery in the Villers-Bretonneux sector, east of Amiens and in the Albert region to the north, is reported today by the war office. There has also been heavy gunfire from the enemy lines on the Somme front, between Festubert and the Clarence River. The rest of the statement follows:

"A party of our troops rushed a German post southeast of Arras during the night and captured a few prisoners. A machine gun and a machine gun were captured by us also in petrol engines north of Ypres. The enemy retained one of our posts northeast of Doubeac. A few of our men are missing."

"The hostile artillery was active in the Villers-Bretonneux and Albert sectors and between Festubert and the Clarence River."

French Statement. Paris, May 31.—The official French statement follows: "The Germans extended their efforts on their right so far as the Oise, by violent attacks in the region of the Ailette. The French fell back, fighting, on positions to the north of the line Epeigny-Bernicourt-Soyons."

"In the region of Soissons and farther south, the German attack broke down before the heroic resistance of the French, who maintained their position in the western outskirts of the town and along the road to Chateau-Thierry."

"In the centre, the Germans succeeded in making a slight advance in the region north of the Marne. Farther east, as well as northwest and north of Rheims, all German efforts to make progress were vain. An energetic counter-attack delivered by French troops won back Thillois."

Rome, May 30.—The official statement from the war office today says: "There was desultory artillery firing today in the Sudricaria, the Val Lagarina and the Val Arsa and on the Asiago plateau enemy defensive works and enemy troop movements were bombarded effectively."

"We frustrated a surprise attack at Cinapalona. A hostile patrol counter-attacked at Cortellazzo. Some prisoners were captured. The enemy retained one of our posts northeast of Doubeac. A few of our men are missing."

"The hostile artillery was active in the Villers-Bretonneux and Albert sectors and between Festubert and the Clarence River."

Paris, May 31.—Forty German divisions are engaged in the Aisne battle and forty more in reserve, says a despatch from Reuter's correspondent at French headquarters. It is possible, the despatch adds, that the enemy may strike another blow for Amiens or Dunkirk, but for the moment he appears to be throwing his entire strength into the conflict on the Aisne.

Pierce street fighting, it is added, attended the capture of Soissons by the Germans. The city was reported to have been in flames on Wednesday evening.

A Knockout, Not a Win on Points, Says Roosevelt

Detroit, May 31.—"America does not want to win this war on points; we want a knockout." In these words Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, delivering a Memorial Day address tonight in Detroit, summarized his conception of this country's war aims.

"If we don't carry it through now," he declared, "we will be forced to fight it out here later, and without allies."

BROKEN SOLDIERS DRIVEN INTO CAVES AND CELLERS BY HUN BOMBARDMENT

With the American Army in France, May 30.—(By the Associated Press)—German aircraft made a preliminary raid on the area behind the American line in Picardy last night. Bombs were dropped on all sides of one of the largest hospitals in a town many miles to the rear of the front. American and French wounded soldiers were carried to cellars and caves by American nurses and members of the American Red Cross.

PARM SETTLEMENT BOARD. The monthly meeting of the farm settlement board is being held this afternoon here. The members of the board are A. W. Hay, Woodstock, W. R. Heels, Fredericton, and W. Kerr, St. John, secretary. Owing to war conditions the board is not buying and selling farms on the same scale as formerly but the members have undertaken a specialized effort to prevent farms being abandoned, and there is no one to take their place, a certain number of farms are being left without occupants. A few years of neglect makes it much harder for a new owner to do anything with such a farm and the farm board is now making special efforts to prevent this happening by finding purchasers or tenants for farms that otherwise would be left idle.

GRAIN FROM HUNGARY. Amsterdam, May 31.—Under an agreement whereby the countries having the first right to buy grain from Hungary, July will deliver the first surplus supply of grain to Austria and the Netherlands. A post telegram to Dutch newspapers says there have been in flames on Wednesday evening.

Improved Situation. Paris, May 31.—"We return with the impression that, as the day advanced, the situation had become more favorable," said Rene Renoult, president of the army committee of the chamber of deputies, who accompanied the new American troops to the front yesterday, to Marcel Tullin of the Echo de Paris on his arrival in Paris.

Breaking it to the People. Zurich, May 31.—Newspapers in Southern Germany publish the following note from the German headquarters: "The population should not expect our advance to continue at the same rate as on the first day. The resistance of the enemy is becoming desperate, and violent counter-attacks are to be expected. The transport of artillery and munitions also is meeting with some difficulty."

Speaking of losses, the note adds that to estimate them correctly, the people should not forget the gravity of importance of the struggle.

ROUTES BY AMERICANS. With the American Army in France, May 30.—(By the Associated Press)—In one of the counter-attacks launched against Cantigny the Germans tried to use tanks. The enemy infantry had more than shown itself than the American artillery opened a heavy fire. Both the foot soldiers and the tanks were driven back in disorder. The new American positions in Cantigny are being improved constantly.

German aircraft flying at a great height, penetrated many miles to the rear of the American lines today. They were driven off by anti-aircraft guns and were unable to drop any bombs.

Paris, May 31.—Numerous refugees from Soissons, Rheims, Chateau-Thierry and other points arrived in Paris during the night and were sent onward toward the centre of France. They had days ago to the Toronto Globe said: "J. Ross Robertson (publisher of the Toronto Telegram) has added a check for \$11,000 to his benefactions to the Hospital for Sick Children, the total of his gifts being now half a million dollars. No Canadian has ever given more wholeheartedly or to a worthy cause than that which Mr. Robertson has made peculiarly his own."

Mr. Robertson presented an art collection valued at \$100,000 to the Toronto Public Library, and will be remembered by many other noble benefactions.

POLICE HUNTING FOR ABSENTEE, FIRED ON. Fredericton, May 31.—Dominion police working from Fredericton were fired on while hunting for an absentee in the vicinity of Maquardt Lake, Sunbury County.

Raid by Americans. With the American Army in France, May 31.—(By the Associated Press)—Fighting along the British front in Flanders this morning still was continued in light and outpost attacks. There was intense activity among both services and a tremendous amount of bombing was being carried out on either side of the battle lines.

Raid by Americans. With the American Army in France, May 31.—(By the Associated Press)—American forces northwest of Toul carried out a successful raid against the German lines late last night. Rheims Likely to Be Lost.

London, May 31.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—In accordance with precedent established by previous operations, the German advance yesterday slackened considerably on both the centre and wings. An encouraging feature was that the slackening occurred after four days, but anxiety is not diminished.

The abandonment of Rheims seems inevitable. The Germans are nearing the Marne and the Paris-Chalons railway, which is the main communication between Paris and Verdun.

ANOTHER HOSPITAL IS BOMBED; NURSES ARE KILLED; FIRE IS SET

With the British Army in France, May 31.—(By the Associated Press)—Another big British hospital was bombed by German aircraft early yesterday morning, and once more many medical workers and some patients were killed or wounded.

The hospital caught fire after a large section of the building had been demolished by a bomb. A few women nurses were among the slain, and latest reports say that their bodies, together with those of a considerable number more of the personnel and patients are buried in the ruins.

AMSTERDAM, May 31.—Drastic methods employed by the German medical authorities in treating nervous patients in military hospitals in Munich resulted in revolts by the patients in which wards were wrecked. At Rosenheim, the hospital was burned by the rebellious patients. The paper adds that electric shocks of such strength were employed that the patients screamed in terror.

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AIM AT STOPPING OUT FRENCH ARMY

German Paper Says This is Motive Back of Drive on the Aisne

Amsterdam, May 31.—Political motives, including the defeat of the French army, are responsible for the German thrust on the Aisne, according to a suggestion in the Rheinische Westfaelische Zeitung of Essen.

"We are on the right road," it says, "with this attack, for all political considerations immediately demand that we should show the French our strong arm. Well considered strategic plans were at the bottom of our lines of action. We do not criticise them, but political questions cannot be ignored."

Spelled from the continent the war would not end as they could lead behind the lines or enter the enemy's rear, and the French army must be given a good beating. This is a preliminary condition to any possible peace on the continent."

PROPRIETOR OF TELEGRAM DEAD

John Ross Robertson of Toronto Passes Away—Noted Canadian Was 77 Years Old

Toronto, May 31.—John Ross Robertson, proprietor of the Evening Telegram, died this morning. He had been ill for two weeks. His illness began with an attack of pneumonia from which he had a partial recovery and the critical stage appeared to have been passed. During the early part of this week he seemed to be on the mend, but his condition became worse yesterday. The family were present at the time of his death. Mr. Robertson was in his seventy-seventh year.

One of the outstanding figures in Canadian journalism, a man who refused to be bought and one of the most principled givers among the citizens of Toronto, his native city, J. Ross Robertson was a man of unique character, as his paper, the Toronto Telegram, was a unique Canadian daily. Born in a mere boy, and printed and published the first school paper in Canada.

He published the first railway guide and the first sporting paper. After a varied newspaper experience in Toronto and England he established the Evening Telegram in 1876. He has been a member of parliament, and of the Canadian Institute, a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Institute, a Fellow of the Institution of King Edward's coronation, was a great promoter of art, and a most generous giver to good causes, especially in relation to child-welfare. Only a few days ago the Toronto Globe said: "J. Ross Robertson (publisher of the Toronto Telegram) has added a check for \$11,000 to his benefactions to the Hospital for Sick Children, the total of his gifts being now half a million dollars. No Canadian has ever given more wholeheartedly or to a worthy cause than that which Mr. Robertson has made peculiarly his own."

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Visit of Prince of Wales to Pope

On The Government's Advice, Says Bonar Law

London, May 31.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Andrew Bonar Law, in the House of Commons, said in reply to a question that the visit of the Prince of Wales to the Pope was on the advice of the British government and strictly in accordance with the practice of British statesmen.

In answer to another question it was stated that the practice of British statesmen of sending messages to the Pope was not a new one.

Johnson Hicks asked "is the government satisfied that British prisoners are no longer forced to work immediately behind the German lines? If not, what steps has it taken or does it propose to take to prevent the continuance of this cruelty to our men?"

The reply of the government was that the treatment of war prisoners generally would be discussed at a conference which was being held in London at the Hague. Discussion would include the matter of employment of prisoners behind the German lines.

Another member suggested the appointment of a high official with the sole duty of carrying out as soon as possible the direct exchange of all prisoners with Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria. The government agreed to consider the possibility of existing arrangements with Turkey and Bulgaria.

Norton Griffiths drew attention to a memorial presented to Mr. Asquith on April 25, 1911, signed by 290 members of the various parties, in favour of the creation of a permanent imperial advisory council. He suggested that the memorial should be given effect to this memorial, by taking advantage of the presence of many members of the council at the coming imperial conference in England, so that the government might thus have the benefit of constant advice on all matters affecting the empire as a whole in relation to the war and the many points which will necessarily arise in connection with the organization of trade and industry after the war.

Bonar Law replied that the best method of effective co-operation in the war would be considered at the approaching imperial conference and imperial war cabinet meeting.

London, May 31.—When the steamer Sonal arrived at Gravesend yesterday from Bombay it was found that three members of the crew were suffering from symptoms suggesting the bubonic plague. Two cases, one of which ended fatally, proved to be plague. During the voyage several rats were killed by the storekeeper and other dead rats were found in the steerage.

The ship is now moored off Gravesend and will be disinfected and the rats destroyed.

BUBONIC ON A STEAMER ARRIVING FROM BOMBAY AT GRAVESEND, ENGL.

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REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers of real estate in Kings county have been recorded as follows: Dennis Boyce to G. B. Jones, property in Studdholme.

Mood Carey et al to C. R. Carey, property in Harelock.

I. N. Green to W. C. Rankin, property in Springfield.

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Heirs of Thomas Long to David Long, property in Studdholme.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. P. Stewart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—Pressure is now highest on the north Pacific coast, while a wide-spread depression covers the west and northwest states. Light showers have occurred in most parts of the western provinces, also over Lake Superior and locally in Quebec.

Forecasts. Lakes and Georgian Bay—Moderate southwest to south winds, fair and decidedly warm; Saturday, moderate to fresh south to west winds, partly fair and warm with some local showers or thunderstorms.

Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence—Generally fair and warm today; Saturday, mostly fair and warm, but a few local showers or thunderstorms.

Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Moderate to fresh south to southwest winds, a few light scattered showers, but mostly fair and generally warm today and on Saturday.

Some Showers. Maritime—Moderate to fresh south to southwest winds, generally fair and milder, but a few light showers tonight and on Saturday.

Lake Superior—Moderate to fresh south to southwest winds, partly fair with occasional showers or local thunderstorms today and on Saturday.

Manitoba—A few scattered showers, but mostly fair and cooler; Saturday, fair and cool.

Saskatchewan and Alberta—Fair and cool today and on Saturday.

New England—Cloudy tonight, followed by fair Saturday, warmer in the interior. Gentle to moderate south winds.

ADD ANOTHER STARTLING ONE

Captain Spencer Says British Ambassador to Italy Was Under German Blackmail

London, May 31.—Under cross-examination after his startling testimony for the defence in the trial of Noel Pemberton-Billing, on the charge of libelling Maude Allan, dancer, and J. T. Greig, manager of the Independent Theatre, Captain Harold Sherwin Spencer declared yesterday that in May, 1917, he had made this report to the chief of the British general staff in writing: "We are being undermined in Italy because the British ambassador in Italy is being blackmailed by the Germans and is afraid to send information to England."

Captain Spencer added that the ambassador's name was also on the German secret agents' list of 47,000 British men and women. Earlier Captain Spencer and Mrs. Villiers Stewart had declared that the persons named were said to be addicted to vice and held in bondage to Germany through fear of exposure.

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EARLY MORNING HALIFAX FIRE

Halifax, N. S., May 31.—Fire early this morning destroyed a fire brick shop in the Nova Scotia Car Works plant here, occupied by the Halifax Relief Commission. The damage is estimated at \$5,000, partially covered by insurance.

F. B. McCurdy & Co. here received the following: After two o'clock a.m. fire broke out in the Nova Scotia Car Works buildings and spread rapidly. In a very brief time there was a great illumination of the northern part of the city and a general alarm brought out all the fire-fighting apparatus. The fire started in a building. In this there was a considerable quantity of paint, and it has been used as a paint shop by the reconstruction committee. The firemen found themselves handicapped by a very insufficient water supply, but by desperate efforts they managed to get the fire under control, but not until it had spread to the big erecting shed and caught a large pile of lumber.

LT. COL. GOOD TAKES UP NEW DUTIES. Lieut.-Colonel Good took over his new duties at military headquarters this morning as officer in charge of leave of absence under the Military Service Act. Colonel Good will have charge of all cases of exemption where a man is the sole support of his family or a farmer's only son. Colonel Good is a very able administrative officer and there is no doubt but that he will ably fill the position. Colonel Good crossed overseas with the first contingent and after being invalided home from France about one year ago has made several trips from Canada to England as a consulting officer.

NATIONALIST M. P.'S MAY KEEP OUT OF COMMONS FOR TIME. Conference Held in Dublin—Mayor of Limerick Ordered to Take Oath.

Dublin, May 30.—The Nationalist party held a meeting here today to consider whether the Nationalist members of parliament should attend the present sitting. The meeting was private. No definite date was fixed, and it is not likely they will return for a fortnight.

A. M. O'Mara, mayor of Limerick, has been ordered by the Court of King's Bench to take the oath of allegiance before exercising his magistrat functions. He had refused to take the oath.

FUTURE STATUS OF DOMINION POLICE. Montreal, May 31.—Major-General R. W. Wilson, officer commanding this military district, this morning received word from the adjutant-general that the dominion police will henceforth be commanded and administered by the provincial marshal at Ottawa and be known as a civil detachment of the military police. The assistant provincial marshal in each district will be in charge of the civil and military actions of the police.

AUSTRIAN TORPEDO WORKS ARE DESTROYED. London, May 31.—The Whitehead torpedo works at St. Poelten, Austria, have been destroyed by fire, according to the Zurich Telegraph despatch from Zurich. Vienna newspapers declare the fire was the result of sabotage by Italian workmen in the plant.

Halifax Bank Clearings. Halifax, N. S., May 31.—Halifax bank clearings for May were \$18,052,975, as compared with \$18,381,663 for the same period in 1917.

Allies Get More Ships. Washington, May 31.—More than 400,000 tons of ships are released to the United States and the Allies by Sweden under the terms of a commercial agreement signed at Stockholm.

WHOLE COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE ASPHYXIATED BY HUN GAS. London, May 31.—The Germans, in their reprisals against peasant disorders in the Ukraine, drenched several villages near Kiev with gas, according to a Petrograd despatch to the Daily Express. Thus, ends the message, whole communities were asphyxiated.

JUNE 30 DAY OF PRAYER IN CANADA FOR WAR VICTORY

Ottawa, May 31.—June 30 has been designated by the government as a day of humiliation and prayer for victory.