

## GERMAN OFFENSIVE IS BOUND TO FAIL

Gen. Leonard Wood Says There is No Possibility of Attaining Objective.

### MORE OPEN CONTEST

Warfare May Be Changed and Advocates Training for This by U. S. Troops.

Washington, March 25.—Back from a visit to the western battlefield, Major-General Leonard Wood, in a confidential statement today before the senate military committee, declared that the German offensive will fail, and urged a great increase in the number of American troops in Europe.

It was Gen. Wood's opinion, according to his auditors, that the German offensive, both on the ground and in the air, but that the allies are in a better position. While conceding that the German offensive will be halted before the enemy has gained any material objectives, General Wood suggested that the offensive may change the warfare into a more open contest. For that reason he recommended the training of American forces for open warfare as well as for trench fighting.

The general was before the committee for three hours and frankly discussed the situation in Europe and at home. Chairman Chamberlain said General Wood recommended that an army of 2,500,000 men be maintained in France at the earliest possible moment and 2,500,000 more in training at home. Another committee member placed Gen. Wood's recommendations at four million men on the ground in France as soon as they can be sent there. In this connection General Wood also recommended compulsory universal military training.

Commenting on the German offensive General Wood, according to members of the committee, said that although the initial success of the Germans probably had been greater than expected either by the allies or the enemy, judged by the number of British guns reported captured, he and allied officers believed the drive will be short lived. There is no possibility, he said, of the Germans attaining their apparent objective, the channel ports, or threatening Paris.

### Intense British Barrage Stops German Attempt

British Army Headquarters in France, March 25.—Early this morning the Germans again hurled great numbers of infantry against the British line near Ervillers, but at the latest reports the onrushing troops had been unable to force their way thru the intense artillery barrage which the British maintained.

A heavy battle also has been proceeding today on the British right flank, where the enemy had succeeded in forcing his way across the Somme and the canal south of it. The allies were delivering counter-attacks with the purpose of pushing back the invaders across the waterway.

### ITALIAN AIRCRAFT EXCEL

Rome, March 25.—There has been remarkable aerial activity over the lines on the Italian front, the war office announced. Eight enemy machines were brought down. There has been a lively artillery battle between the Brenna and the Livenza, and the Italian airplanes bombed railway lines in the Livenza valley and the aviation grounds on the Livenza.

### URGES COMPULSION THROUGHOUT IRELAND

Morning Post Condemns British Government for Neglecting West Front.

London, March 25.—That Great Britain failed to make a greater concentration of men on the western front is deplored by The Morning Post, which urges that conscription be put into effect in Ireland to fill the gap.

"This great battle," it says, "teaches us all the vital nature of the western front. It is here that the war is being decided. What would we give now for all those glorious legions we sent to the end of the earth at the behest of our amateurs in strategy? Even the dazzling glories of Jerusalem fade into insignificance in the light of this conflict on the Somme."

"We have all along urged that the western is the decisive front. The skill of our generals and the steadiness of our men are no where enabling our armies to hold their own against this tremendous assault, which our commanders had foreseen. The most urgent need is for men upon the western front. They must be got if our army and our country are to be saved. And to get them, one measure above all others is needful."

"We must apply the National Service Act to Ireland. When we do that, our government will rest its further claims upon this country upon a rock of justice as well as of necessity."

### NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

American War Department is Satisfied With Situation on British Battle Front.

Washington, March 25.—The war department sees no cause for "alarm on the part of the people," said Major-General Peyton C. March, acting chief of staff, commenting today on the situation in France. "Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. The announcement is to be accepted."

### SPANISH GRAIN SHIP SUNK.

Berne, March 25.—An official report has just been received giving details of the sinking of the Spanish steamer Sardinero, with American grain for Switzerland.

### CANADIANS NOT INVOLVED

Premier Announces They Have Not Yet Taken Part in Battle.

Ottawa, March 25.—Sir Robert Borden announced in the house of commons this afternoon that he had been in communication with Sir Edward Kemp by cablegram, as to the developments in the German offensive. Sir Edward Kemp had replied that the Canadians were not yet involved. Sir Robert also read abstracts of the official communiques from Paris and London, giving the progress of the operations.

The prime minister continued: "Undoubtedly, as far as one can judge, the Germans are throwing absolutely their full forces into the attack. It seems to have been encountered with as great a success as was anticipated in the first instance. There is no question at all that very much depends upon the issue, and I know that the hearts of the people in this country will be lifted up in interest, that the right may prevail."

### AUSTRIANS PLAN TO ATTACK ITALY

Bring Up Many Divisions—To Coincide With German Effort.

Washington, March 25.—A formidable Austro-German offensive in Italy as soon as natural conditions permit is forecasted in official despatches from Rome today, which say Austrian divisions continue to arrive without interruption, and are taking up positions on the front. Austro-German artillery is receiving reinforcements daily, the despatches say, while new aviation camps and additional ammunition depots are observed to be under construction.

The opinion prevails in military circles at Rome that the German offensive will break with extreme violence in two great actions, namely, on the Franco-British front followed by an immediate Austro-German offensive on the Italian front.

Germany has sent fresh contingents of machine gunners to the Italian front, together with several aerial squadrons. Reports from Innsbruck, Austria, say General Berchthold and General Conrad have just returned to the headquarters of the supreme command after an inspection of the Trentino positions.

### BRITISH WITHDREW WITHOUT MISHAP

Retreating Fight Can Be Real Success, if Enemy Intentions Fail.

London, March 25.—The Manchester Guardian says a significant feature of the situation on the battle front is that after three days' fighting the enemy claims only 5,000 prisoners more than after the second day, which means that the British withdrawal after the rupture of the front west of St. Quentin was made in excellent order. The newspaper regards this as a good omen for the future.

"A retreating fight, as everyone knows since Mons and Verdun," says The Guardian, "can be a real success if the intentions of the enemy are defeated and the integrity of the front is preserved. In the present case there is no doubt that the Germans, who they have covered a great deal of ground, have failed in the main purpose of every offensive, which is to annihilate or capture large contingents of the opposing forces. It is apparent, also, that while breaking thru our fortified lines, they have at no time succeeded in breaking the living lines of our defence."

### TONNAGE FOR SWISS.

Washington, March 25.—Transfer of 50,000 tons of American shipping to the Swiss Government to take food supplies for that country was announced today by the shipping board. The Swiss Government, it is understood, will secure a safe conduct from the German Government for the transportation of supplies to Cotto.

### AUSTRIA'S SHARE IN WAR.

Geneva, March 24.—There has been some doubt expressed in the entente press recently as to whether Austria was taking an active part in the western offensive. Vienna papers clear up this point, stating that the Austrian Emperor has just returned to Vienna after visiting Austrian troops on the Flanders front.

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### ENEMY CONTINUES TO REPORT GAINS

Germans Still Press on Wherever Opening is Found.

### BAPAUME CAPTURED

Hot Fighting at Comblès—French Forces Thrown Back.

Berlin, March 25.—(British admiralty, per wireless).—The Germans are now standing to the north of the Somme in the middle of the former Somme battlefield, says today's official statement. Bapaume was captured in night fighting.

Crown Prince Rupprecht has, with the armies of Gen. von Below and Gen. von der Marwitz, again defeated the enemy in a tremendous struggle near Bapaume, while the corps of Gen. von der Berne, Gen. Lindemann and Gen. Kuehne broke thru the Somme positions of the enemy to the northeast of Bapaume.

In bitter fighting the troops of Gen. Gruener and Gen. Stabe, coming from the east and southeast, drove the enemy back via Ytres and Sully.

The stubborn enemy resistance, which had been reinforced with fresh troops, was broken in a violent battle. Freshly brought up divisions and numerous tanks threw themselves against our advancing forces along the roads leading from Bapaume to Cambrai and Peronne. They could not bring about a decision in favor of the enemy. In the evening, defeated, they streamed back again in a westerly direction.

### Hot Fight at Comblès.

"During the course of the night battle Bapaume fell into the hands of the Germans. Hot fighting developed for the possession of Comblès and the heights situated to the west. The enemy was defeated, attacked by English cavalry breaking down. We are now standing to the north of the Somme and in the middle of the former Somme battlefield.

The German crown prince, with the army of Gen. von Hutier, has forced a passage across the Somme below Haris. His victorious troops have, in bitter fighting, mounted the heights to the west of the Somme. Violent counter-attacks by the British infantry and cavalry broke down with sanguinary losses. The Town of Nesle was taken by storm in the evening.

### Positions Stormed.

"Between the Somme and the Oise the troops which penetrated across the Crozat Canal late in the evening of March 23 have taken by storm strongly fortified and stubbornly defended positions.

On the west bank of the canal, in hot fighting, British, French and American troops were thrown back thru the pathless wooded country via La Neuville and Villers-Aux-Bois. The attack continued yesterday and French infantry and cavalry divisions which were brought forward for a counter-thrust, were thrown back with sanguinary losses. The relentless pursuit by Gen. von Cerna and Gen. von Gayle pressed after the retreating enemy. Guisard and Chauny were captured."

The situation in the German official statement to fighting in the vicinity of Ytres and Sully would seem to indicate a new offensive far to the north of the Somme battlefield. There, however, the British just to the south of Bapaume and three miles to the east of Sully there is a town called Ytres. It may be that these are the two places referred to in the text of the German official review of the fighting.

### GERMANS ATTACK WITHOUT BIG GUNS

Enemy Relies on Sheer Weight of Numbers to Advance.

London, March 25.—The British this morning were counter-attacking between Nesle and Ham, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports. The French also were in action.

North of Bapaume, he states, the Germans were attacking in considerable force and down, but did not get thru the British barrage.

The Germans, says the correspondent, are relying upon sheer weight of numbers in their heavy attacks on the British line, relieving their tired troops by fresh divisions, which press forward without waiting for artillery support.

The enemy all day yesterday and thru the moonlight last night kept up his hammering of the British positions, the message states, the British troops resisting with valiant stubbornness.

The Germans are employing many small bodies of Uhlans, chiefly as scouting patrols, it is added.

The spearhead of the German effort is still directed against the old Somme battle ground. The British troops have been falling back slowly upon new positions under tremendous pressure, destroying everything which might be useful to the Germans.

Hostile airmen were active throughout the night, bombing the British communications, but showing little inclination to compete with our flying men after daylight came.

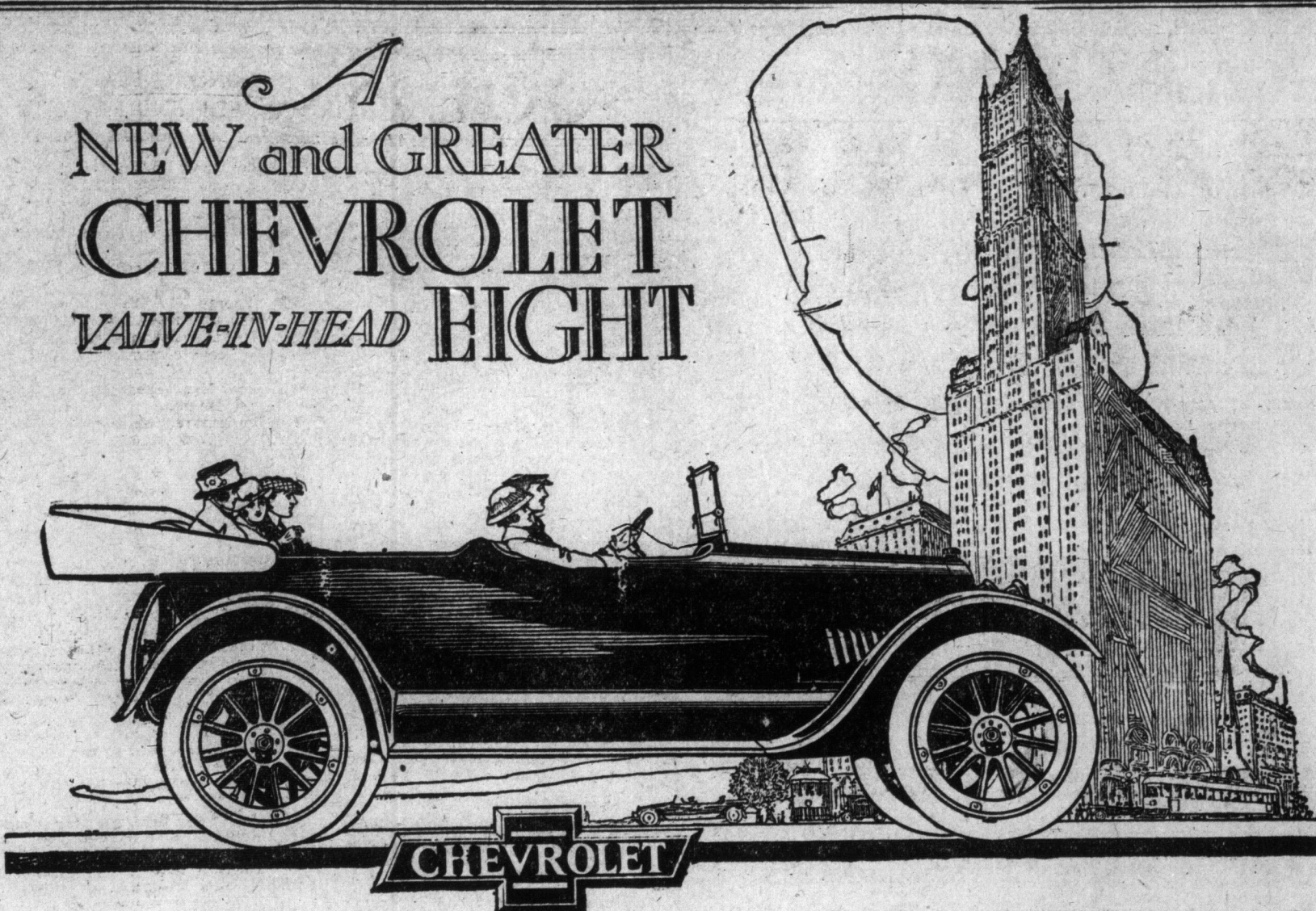
### GERMAN LOSSES HEAVY.

London, March 25.—Emperor William and Field Marshal von Hindenburg visited Peronne on Sunday evening, according to Berlin advices forwarded from Amsterdam by Exchange Telegraph. The German losses in the battle at Bapaume are described as "comparatively heavy."

### U. S. LOSSES ON MANLEY.

Washington, March 25.—Vice Admiral Sims cabled the navy department today that in addition to seven men and seven men are missing from the American destroyer Manley as a result of her recent collision with a British warship and the consequent explosion of a depth bomb on board.

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