

BRITISH TAKE FOE POSITIONS ON MILE FRONT

German Lines On Slopes of Greenland Hill, North of Scarpe, Won.

GUNS STILL BUSY

Lively Air Fighting Again, With Allies Getting Results.

London cable: The British troops have captured German positions north of the Scarpe River over a front of about a mile, according to the official report from headquarters to-night.

From the North Sea to the Franco-Belgian frontier the Entente Allies and the Germans are engaged in artillery duels, which are especially violent around Dixmude and between Steenstraete and Het Sas and in the region of Wytshaele, south of Ypres.

The Germans are heavily attacking the French troops in the region between Soissons and Rheims, but except on one sector they have everywhere been repulsed with heavy casualties. North of Chemin-des-Dames some trench elements were captured by the Germans.

Again there has been lively fighting in the air between the British and Germans, in which eight enemy machines were shot down and eight others driven down out of control. The British themselves lost seven machines.

Sir Douglas Haig's report from headquarters in France reads:

"The operations commenced last night north of the Scarpe were successfully completed during the day, and all our objectives gained. We have captured the enemy's positions on the western slopes of Greenland Hill on a front of about a mile and taken 102 prisoners, including four officers."

"We have also captured a few prisoners as a result of raids carried out early this morning north of Ypres."

"There has again been considerable artillery activity on both sides at a number of points along our front, particularly on the north bank of the Scarpe and in the neighborhood of Vimy village, Armentieres and Ypres."

"Activity in the air continued yesterday. Eight German aeroplanes were brought down in the air fighting, one of which fell within our lines. Eight others were driven down out of control. Seven of our machines are missing."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris cable: The official statement issued by the War Office to-night reads:

"This morning, after the bombardment of our positions between the Ailette River and the Laon road and northwest of Braye-en-Laonnois, the Germans delivered several attacks at various points in this sector. Two attempts against the Bois du Mortier, north of Vauxcelles, broken down immediately by our fire, gave to the enemy no other result than appreciable losses."

"The Germans concentrated their efforts north of the Chemin-des-Dames, where they attacked on the front of Pantheon-la Coyere Farm. The enemy attack, repulsed in its entirety, was not able to reach our lines except at one point south of Plamp. In the neighborhood of our Bovettes salient, after a stubborn engagement, some trench elements of the first line remained in the hands of the enemy. Everywhere else our assailants were driven back to their own trenches."

"The day was calm on the remainder of the front save in Belgium, where spirited artillery fighting took place in the sector of Nieupoort."

FRITZ NOW HAS NO SAND IN HIM

Says Canadian Who Has Been in the Struggle.

Striking Proofs of His Claim Offered.

London cable says: Correspondence of the Associated Press—"Fritz don't seem to have any sand in him these days; nothing like what they were at Ypres in 1915," said a private of the Canadian Expeditionary Force recently returned from the front in France. "One of them whom we captured along with a party that was making a real Hindenburg advance to the rear in double time said to me:

"This war no good at all. We finished. Why not stop?" "I told him his whole machine had got to be smashed right up before there would be any stop, so far as we were concerned."

"After that we went into a German dugout that turned out to be a combined trench-mortar emplacement and ammunition store. It was very deep and had hardly been damaged at all. A sloping passage led up to the emplacement, and down below there were piles of mortar shells. We found the whole crew of the mortar hiding behind one of these piles, and they surrendered at once. They could easily have blown us all to kingdom come."

Other men wounded on the Arras battlefield tell similar incidents. A

corporal of the Devons who was sniped on outpost duty when the Germans were being driven from the village near Croiselles, said:—

"I think their snipers are about the best men they've got left, now, and even they throw up their hands directly you get near them, and will a chance of tasting the bayonet. I only fight at rifle range, never with saw the cavalry attacking that village; one of the finest sights I've ever seen. They came over a rise of ground, galloped clean through a screen of whizz-bangs. They were great. It was fine to see them sweep through. Our boys got up in time to take over the prisoners."

A Canadian bomber, who was hit after several days of very strenuous fighting, said:—"Just under the crest of Vimy Ridge, Fritz had a lot of machine-guns that he'd never used before. He had kept their emplacements very carefully hidden. They held us up for a little bit, but it was not for long. That was where our rifle grenadiers came in. They lobbed bombs all over those Emma Gee emplacements for a bit, and then a Canadian battalion went right through them and over; and that was the end of the Fritz on the crest."

"After I was hit and sent back, I fell in with a party that was clearing dug-outs, and stayed a bit with them. One queer thing I saw going back was four German machine-guns in one place, all undamaged, and the four crews of the guns all stone dead, killed by our 'shrapnel.' When I got to the dressing-station at last, I found a Fritz doctor in charge, with his whole staff, working away on our wounded like good 'uns."

Another Canadian, told of a double dug-out which must have been either a battalion or a company headquarters. In the smaller division were four officers, with two orderlies making coffee for them; in the larger division opening out of it, thirty-five officers and men. Not one of the whole lot were wounded, and all, including the four officers, surrendered without a murmur.

"Making coffee, mind you!" said the Canadian. "My officer laughed. 'There's a war on outside, gentlemen,' he said; but those Boche officers they only scowled; not a smile or a word from the bunch."

The Adjutant of a London regiment, whose shoulder had been broken, said:—"The men were splendid in this show. But they have been from start to finish; couldn't do better. But I think they are more highly skilled now than they ever were before. Apart from that, the two things that struck one most were the magnificent gunnery, and the fine staff work. I had only been out five weeks, when this show began. I was wounded last July. And I was immensely struck by our progress in tactics, staff work, and co-operation between the different arms. It really is a wonderful machine now. The accuracy and precision of it all is amazing."

SOLDIER SLAIN IN LONDON TP.

Brutal Murder of Invalided Man in Woods.

Robbery Likely Motive—A Clue Found.

London, Ont., report: Gunner Harold Payne, 63 Battery, a man of 40 years, and a native of Lincolnshire, England, who lived for a time before enlistment at St. Mary's, was found murdered this morning in the woods on the farm of Wesley Shoebottom, five miles north of London, in London Township. High Constable B. F. Waterworth is to-night seeking the owner of a rubber heel found beside the body. Payne had been under treatment for rheumatism at the military hospital at Wolseley Barracks for some time. Saturday he obtained a pass, and left wearing his blue convalescent uniform, in which he was found.

Thirty cents in silver were found in his pockets and pieces of either one or two \$2 bills had been trampled into the earth and almost buried in the base of a stump at the scene of the murder. That they had been torn during a struggle for possession seemed evident. Payne, his comrades claimed, had about \$40, when he left the hospital. His breast was covered with blood from a three-inch gash in his throat, which, however, was sufficient to have caused death. In the belief of Coroner McNeil, of Arras, Payne was still on his feet after being cut. Then it appears he fled around the stump to escape his assailant and was brought down by a huge stone hurled at the right side of his head. The stone, blood-stained and matted with hair, was found beside a pool of blood, and there, it is believed, Payne's death occurred. His murderer's first impulse was to strip the body to prevent identification, and to this end he removed the shoes. The leather inner heel fell from one of them before he replaced the shoes and carried the body to a sugar house some seventy feet away.

The body had not bled after its removal. The heels of both the soldier's shoes were intact, but beside the stump where the struggle had evidently taken place a rubber heel was found. The owner of this, the police believe, is the murderer.

Identification of the body was established by Major Cameron, commander of the 63rd Battery.

"I don't believe we can stand all these additional expenditures you are planning." "Well, Charley, dear," replied young Mrs. Tompkins, "I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll go ahead and make them just the same, and you can be a committee to observe and determine whether the experiment is a success."—Washington Star.

Effect of Great War On Ireland's Future

John Redmond's Brother, Major Redmond, Appeals From the Trenches to Moderate Irish Sentiment.

(From the Dublin Review for April.)

When war was declared by England the whole world turned to see what Ireland would do. That a certain number of Irishmen would fight bravely in the British army was expected. That had always been the case, even in days when the spirit of Ireland was troubled and when deactivation for British rule was most rife. But what the world wanted to know was what Ireland as a whole—that is, including Nationalist Ireland—would do. Would the Irish take the side of England and France, or would they, as the Germans hoped, either stand coldly neutral or else openly take up arms against their old hereditary enemy, England.

It is true to say that in the past Nationalist Ireland had never, since the destruction of the Irish Parliament at any rate, wholeheartedly identified itself with any of England's struggles. In the fateful days of August, 1914, people wondered what Ireland's attitude would be toward the great war which was about to begin. It was then, with a sense of grateful relief, that the British people heard of the pronouncement of the leader of the Irish party in Parliament that Ireland's loyalty and co-operation in the coming struggle might be counted upon. In Germany there immediately broke out a manifestation of strong rage, and the Nationalist leader became the object of the most bitter attacks in the German press. And yet Germany had no claim whatever upon Irish consideration. With almost every country in Europe Ireland had more sympathy than with Germany. With France Irishmen had had from time immemorial, historical and traditional connection. France, at any rate, had made some efforts to relieve Ireland from suffering and oppression, while Germany had never lifted a finger or spoken a word or exercised the slightest influence toward the mitigation of the conditions under which Irishmen were governed.

As between Germany and France, therefore, it caused no surprise to the student of history that Irishmen should prefer to fight upon the side of the French. What did cause surprise in some quarters was that Ireland, through her representatives, should take the side of England in the war, and that Irishmen should flock by tens of thousands into the army. And yet this attitude of Ireland only made good and bore out the pledged word of Irishmen that, under certain circumstances, they would loyally take their part in the defence and maintenance of the great empire through which Irishmen had helped largely to create.

What were these circumstances? They involved the granting to Ireland of self-government or home rule. From the earliest days of the home rule movement down to the days of Parnell and Redmond it had been always steadfastly proclaimed by Ireland that if she had her own Parliament restored she would take her place fully and loyally in the empire. In 1914, just before the declaration of war, the British people through the majority of their representatives, passed through Parliament the bill establishing home rule. Shortly afterward this bill received the royal assent and passed to the statute book. It is true home rule did not come into operation, and the Irish people were disappointed when they were told that, pending the war they would have to wait for the establishment of their parliament. Still, the victory was won. Home rule was the law of the land, and in spite of their disappointment the Irish people felt that the King and representatives of the British people had conceded their country's claim.

Was it conceivable then that Ireland should refrain from carrying out her own pledged word to take her share in the defence of the empire, having had her claim to her Parliament ratified by the British electorate and sealed with the royal assent? Britain had kept her share of the compact as to home rule, and it was for Ireland to show that she was ready before the world to keep her share in the home rule compact as well. From every platform in Great Britain the Irish members, with the assent of their constituents, declared that the granting of home rule would be the beginning of a new era of friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of the two islands.

Here and there may have been a voice of dissent, but no one can doubt that the Irish representatives spoke with the assent of the overwhelming mass of the Irish people. Had not the Boers kept their pledge to work loyally in the empire, having been granted freedom in their own country? The Irish surely could do no less. The worldwide sympathy which had been instinctively given to Ireland in her struggles would have been withdrawn in a haze had the Irish people signified the passing of home rule by placing themselves in alliance with the German and the Turk against England. Sympathy with France, horror at the unprovoked destruction of Belgium, these things undoubtedly affected Ireland's attitude in the war, but what affected and brought about that attitude more than all the rest was the feeling which prevailed, and still undoubtedly does prevail, that home rule, though in abeyance, is still the law of the land, and that therefore it is Ireland's duty to act as her representatives declared she would act if her claims were conceded by the British people. In other words, Ireland is overwhelmingly with England in this war on the faith of home rule—about which the Germans were so solicitous in a recent note, but about which they said not a word in times gone by.

Even had home rule not been passed, the sympathy of Ireland would still have been overwhelmingly for Belgium and France, whose people are, after all, by race and by religion, closely akin to her own. In

Australia and Canada, and all through the empire there are millions of the Irish race engaged in the war, and Ireland could never be indifferent to their struggle. For Germany, on the other hand, Ireland can have no natural sympathy, or for the iron sway of the great military machine which oppresses and darkens the lives of the masses of the working people. In times not long gone German mercenaries, Hessians and others were among the cruellest persecutors of Ireland. From a racial, religious or historical point of view there is no affinity between Ireland and Germany. No Irishman can watch unmoved the heroic efforts of Frenchmen to defend the soil of their country. The Irish troops in France are glad when they find themselves fighting for the liberation of France. Lately there may have been prejudice against the French in Ireland because French Governments foolishly and wickedly have persecuted the Catholic Church. The war, however, has changed all that. More than 2,000 French priests have died upon the battlefield, and it is impossible to think of Irishmen ever being found among the enemies of France.

Ireland, too, has shared with all humanity the horror of those new methods of warfare inaugurated by Germany which involve the destruction of the lives of defenceless women and children. There are few Irishmen who would not consider any advantage to Ireland too dearly bought if the price were alliance with the hordes who have been guilty of the infamies and atrocities perpetrated by Germany in the course of the war.

There may be differences of opinion as to whether the number of recruits from Ireland is or is not proportionately adequate. It cannot be denied, however, that Ireland's response deserved the description of it given by Lord Kitchener, when he declared it to be "magnificent." Even with the Irish Parliament in abeyance, Ireland's response has been that. If the doors of the Irish Parliament were in fact open the response of Ireland would be more "magnificent" still, and this it is the statesmen of all parties should realize. Had the Irish Parliament been open it is inconceivable that the tragedy of Easter, 1916, could have taken place in Dublin—it was the postponement of home rule which made that tragedy possible.

In the course of the war the Irish troops have behaved with their accustomed valor. They have rendered a splendid service which should never be lost sight of by Englishmen, who may from time to time be inclined to question the real attitude of Ireland. On the fields of France and Flanders the Orange troops from the north and the Catholics from the south alike maintained the honor of their country. These men in the field have worked and fought side by side in brotherhood and amity. One may ask in all seriousness if it is not a sign that, under a fair and free system of government, the men of the north and south may not be trusted to work out in friendship the salvation of their common country.

The old system of government in Ireland is dead—no sane man believes it can ever be revived. Let it be the task of statesmen of all sections to devise a new system founded on freedom and possessing every reasonable safeguard for minorities. Let old prejudices be cast aside; let the hands which have been grasped upon the field of battle be grasped upon the fields of peace in Ireland also; let England trust fully and freely the people who have given so many brave soldiers to the common cause. In this way, and in this way alone, can Ireland, consistently with her national existence, become a loyal and true partner, ready to take her full place in peace and war with England and Scotland and all the great young nations of the empire, so many of them her own children.

The reflections here set down are the very reflections which course through the minds of many thousands of Irish soldiers in trench and camp to-day, and of these things many and many an Irish soldier thought who will never think again in this world.

William Redmond.

BRITISH MAKE RETALIATION FOR YPRES DAY

Thursday's Victory Evens Up Scores Haig's Men Have Been Holding.

HUNS APPALLED

By Explosion That Blew Away Hill 60, Their Point of Vantage.

(By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

With the British Armies in France, stable.—The British armies struck to-day on a new front and won a victory which supplements the successes at Arras during the past two months. The Germans, though apparently aware that the blow was coming and seemingly prepared to meet it, were driven from their nearly three years' hold on Messines ridge, opposite poor

old Ypres, the last remnant of an important Belgian town, which, with the help of the French and British in turn, has held out against all the massed attacks the Germans could fling against it, including the first great surprise of poison gas as a means of supposed civilized warfare.

Ypres in a sense was avenged to-day, for Messines ridge has been the vantage point from which the Germans have poured torrents of shells into the stricken city. The British also wiped off an old score against the Germans, for they held the ridge in October, 1914, and with very thin forces and practically no artillery fought bloodily, but vainly, to hold it when the Prussian troops massed their modern and overpowering weapons of war against it.

To-day's attack lacked many of the elements of surprise which accompanied the battle of Arras, and the successful storming of Vimy Ridge. There has been no doubt for three weeks past as to the intentions of the British. The Germans knew that a big push was to be made against Messines, and they had plenty of time to prepare for the defence of that place. Prisoners taken to-day, however, declared that the bombardment of Vimy was child's play compared with the gunfire turned upon Messines ridge.

WHOLLY ON BELGIAN SOIL.

This fire reached its climax just as dawn was graying the eastern skies and while the full moon was still suspended high in the heavens. To-day's successes, won along about a ten-mile front from Observatory ridge, southeast of Ypres, to Ploegsteert wood, just north of Armentieres, proved another triumph for British artillery supremacy. As the fighting was wholly on Belgian soil, however, the Belgian artillery stationed some distance north of the actual line of attack, lent aid with a violent bombardment of the German positions within range of its varied calibre weapons.

Messines Ridge is a low-lying promontory, extending along the greater part of to-day's fighting front. It is an insignificant bit of ground to look at from below. At its greatest height it rises barely 70 metres above the sea level. The surrounding country is so low and flat, however, that Messines had an observation value practically incalculable. It was a position which dominated the northern half of the British line in the west, and no operations of a large character could be planned without its possession.

ALL THE ARTS AND DEVILTRIES.

Seventy metres is not a great height, but when you have been sitting at twenty or thirty metres with the enemy looking down at you and pouring shot and shell incessantly about you, possession of the higher ground means a victory of supreme importance.

To-day's attack was accomplished by all the arts and deviltries of latter-day war. The enemy guns and gun crews had been bathed for days in gas shells sent over by the long-range British guns. The night was filled with red incendiary flame. Shells that streams of golden rain crashed in appalling numbers about the heads of the defending soldiers. High explosive and shrapnel fire was carried out with such rapidity that the very earth writhed under the force of the attack. Mines that had taken two years to dig and fill with an overwhelming explosive broke into an avalanche of flaming destruction in the half light of dawn. This was, indeed, a Ypres day of retaliation and victory for the vicious suffering of two years and eight months.

HILL 60 BLOWN UP.

Hill 60, of evil renown, always the nearest menace to Ypres, went up with other strong points under the impulse of hundreds of tons of a secret explosive compound. The mining plans had been so great and so carefully made that the British knew that even if they did not affect the strategy of the situation they would at least materially change the geography. However, both strategically and geographically the assaults were victorious and all the corps and divisions employed reported to-night that their objectives had been reached and maintained.

There has been good fighting throughout the day, although the artillery success had made the infantry assaults comparatively easy. Late to-day the Germans were reported massing in two flanking positions, apparently for heavy counter-attack. The British meantime, however, had brought their guns far forward on the ridge and were prepared.

All the prisoners say the Germans had been expecting the attack, but were taken completely by surprise by the hour at which it was launched and the fury with which it was carried forward.

They had been completely dazed by the most gigantic mining operation yet carried out in the world war. More than 1,000,000 pounds of high explosives had been placed under the German forward positions during the past twelve months, and the upheaval of a score of separate mines spread panic among the troops, already harassed as they were to the point of distraction by seven days and nights of fire from the greatest concentration of guns on a given point since the war began. The battle of Arras had reached the ultimate in this respect, but to-day's bombardment was carried out by 20 per cent. more guns, especially guns of heavy calibre.

The Messines ridge has long been a thorn in the side of the British. They were driven from it in those perilous days of October, 1914, when with weak lines and virtually no artillery they bravely but forlornly attempted to hold this point of vantage.

Blobs—Skinnam attributes his success in the stock market entirely to his pluck. Blobs—That's right. I was one of the plucked.

"The doctor says I must cut out cigars, alcohol and late hours." "That means a decided change in your mode of living." "It means nothing of the kind, Arabella. It simply means that I change doctors!"—Browning's Magazine.

RISKY TASK OF MINE SWEEPING

Crews Never Doff Their Life Belts.

Not One Moment Free From Danger.

Paris Cable.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Sweeping the English Channel for mines laid by German submarines is one of the most exciting and dangerous occupations of the war, according to the stories told by men participating in that work. "Mine sweepers doubtless are the only vessels of the navy on which life belts are worn from the time of leaving port until the return," writes Jacques Marsillac, from aboard a mine sweeper on service in the Channel.

"The task of a group of mine sweepers, composed of seven sloops formed in echelons, two by two, connected by steel cables, with the flag boat leading, is to clear a channel about half a mile wide and fifty miles long of the mines laid there by German submarines," he adds. "These under-water mine layers carry from fifteen to twenty-four mines, according to the type, and they frequently lay them quite close together, so close, in fact, that it has become an axiom in the mine-hunting craft that where one is found another is sure to turn up."

"The wireless operator on the flag boat of the group, who has served on four mine sweepers that have been blown up in the service, had scarcely flashed to the boats of the group that a mine had been signalled when a black mass drifted appeared on the crest of the waves ahead of our boat. A second later it disappeared. We steered in its direction, every man on deck searching intently for its reappearance. The few minutes in which a sighted mine disappears are full of infinitely disagreeable tension on board a mine sweeper."

"And if we touch it?" Marsillac asked of the wireless operator.

"Then it is joss," he replied, meaning that it would be fatal.

"On this occasion the mines were friendly to us," wrote Marsillac, "for the mine reappeared fifty yards away and, for some reason, that no one could explain, remained in sight until the gunners could get a shot on it. Round, black it shone like a seal's back, showing from time to time its four mortal needles, contact with which means destruction. The boat sheered off the gunners, using a special rifle ball at about 200 yards, under immense difficulties, resulting from the rolling of the boat, fired fifty shots without touching one of the fatal needles. They succeeded, however, in piercing the mine, which filled with water and sank to the bottom of the sea."

"The two leading sloops raised a half red flag, which means that they have found a mine. At once began a manoeuvre intended to cut the cable holding it; suddenly a steel cable that connects each couple of sloops struck the mine. It must have come in contact with one of the deadly needles, and broke the vital of acid inside, which sets off the discharge, for an immense column of water shot straight into the air to a height of 100 yards, completely masking from each other the two sloops between which the explosion occurred. Then the sloops went on in search of other mines, and thus continue every day this dangerous and heroic work of clearing the path for merchant ships through the high seas."

FOR U. S. ARMY.

Food Reaches France—Camps Are Prepared.

Paris cable says: A large American transport, containing wheat for American troops, which are to come later, has crossed the Atlantic under the protection of an American warship, the *Matin* announces. The transport is now being unloaded at a French port, the paper says.

Preparations are being made for the reception of American troops, the newspaper further says. A number of bases, similar to those of the British army, have been organized.

Camps have been laid out for infantry and artillery, and aviation parks have been established for American aviators.

The *Matin* says the arrival of the transport means that the provisioning of the army is well under way before the arrival of the troops, and that accordingly the American forces will make no call on the French stock of food.

Washington, June 7.—The naval collier *Jupiter* has arrived in France. Secretary of the Navy Daniels announced to-day, laden with 10,500 tons of wheat and other supplies.

WARNING RUSSIA.

Japan and the Allies Tell of Her Danger.

Washington, Dispatch.—The Japanese government has taken positive measures to let Russia know that Japan is in the war to stay and will not be deterred from her intention to stand by her allies in the struggle until Germany has been defeated. It was learned in consultation with Great Britain, the Russian Provisional Government that if Russia withdraws from the war Japan in consultation with Great Britain will consider what measures to take. It was intimated in a diplomatic quarter that Japan and Great Britain would exchange views with the United States concerning the Russian situation. It is understood that the Russian Provisional Government has been warned that if she accepts a separate peace with the Central Empire she will become another Austria under German domination.