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FRENCH ADVANCE GOES ON STRONG POSITIONS TAKEN

Offensive Between Soissons and Rheims is Continued With Success, and German First Line Positions Are Taken on Many Miles of Front; Village of Auberive Is Occupied, 2500 More Prisoners Taken, 19 German Divisions Defeated, and Strong Enemy Counter-Attacks Repulsed.

London, April 17.—Extending their great offensive along the entire front east of Rheims as far as the old Champagne battlefield, the French delivered today another smashing stroke. In the face of violent gusts of rain and snow Nivelle's troops stormed eighteen miles of German trenches, wiped out a powerful salient around the village of Auberive, and captured that place, and swept in 2,500 additional prisoners.

The total number of prisoners taken by the French in the last two days' operations is 13,500, as many as the British swept in during five days. Unofficial reports place the German casualties on the French front in the last forty-eight hours at close to 100,000. One division sent to the relief of another on the eve of the battle was virtually wiped out. General Nivelle reports:

Along the hundred-mile front, where the guns on both sides are incessantly booming, there are not short of three million men engaged in savage battle. Along the French line of attack alone Nivelle's divisions of reserves—285,000 men—and are believed to number twice that force themselves.

British Continue Advance.
The British continued their advance in the region of Arras, but their operations were considerably slowed down by the severe weather conditions. "Encounters occurred throughout the day west and northwest of Lens, where we continue to press the enemy," says Haig's report. The British also gained ground between St. Quentin and Cambrai, capturing the Le Tombois farm, near Epehy, and advancing along the spur northeast of Epehy station.

thereby completely upset, just as they were upset by the rapidity with which the entire allied force followed up the withdrawal from the Somme, and by the totally unexpected attack of the British at Arras, where the Germans had delayed their retreat until it was too late to escape disaster.

Bad News for Germany.
Hindenburg is preparing his alibi. That is shown in both yesterday's and today's reports, in which he speaks of the French efforts as "having a far distant object," and again "an object which is far-reaching." Both the statements, it is firmly believed here, are intended to pave the way for what must be bad news to the German people, however much they are glossed over.

In direct contrast to this note of hopelessness is that which rang thru a speech of **Andrew Bonar Law** in the house of commons this afternoon, when he said the British troops were engaged in the greatest operation since the beginning of the war, and were meeting with success, which exceeded his expectations. For this reason he pleaded that the life of parliament be extended so as to avoid the possibility of division in the effort to prosecute the war to a successful conclusion.

The French success today was obtained in three drives, all closely correlated, along the front east of Rheims. The entire first German position on a front of nine miles south of Moronvillers was carried first, then Nivelle's troops pushed beyond and stormed a line of powerfully fortified heights from Mont Carniel to Vanducourt, a distance of seven miles. Further still to the east the village of Auberive and the enemy's positions around it for a distance of two miles were carried.

Russians Held Firm.
Violent counter-attacks by the Germans against these new positions, as well as west of Croonne and in the sector of Courcy were turned back without success. In the latter region the Russians held firm against the enemy's assaults along the old battlefield of the Champagne, where thousands of French and German troops fell last year and the year before. Everywhere the fighting continues with ferocity.

Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, the aerial forces of the allies still maintain their command of the air. The British statement announces the loss of three more German machines and five British, adding that "in most cases the enemy avoided combat." Capt. Guymener, of the French service, has brought down his 38th enemy machine.

Canadians Honored

London, April 17.—Honors have been gazetted to the following Canadian soldiers:

Distinguished Service Order
Lieut.-Col. Danbury Davies, infantry, who, when in command of a strong raiding party personally superintended the assembly of all parties prior to an attack carried out by him with conspicuous success and has previously rendered excellent service on many occasions.

Military Cross
Lieut. Geo. Albert Allan, who, when in command of a raiding party, personally led his men with great gallantry and succeeded in capturing the objective with several prisoners, and was severely wounded.

Lieut. Fredrick George Bird, engineers, who, when in command of a raiding party to enter the enemy's trenches, and who, after several attempts, succeeded in carrying out an advance to the extreme end of the line, and displaying great gallantry.

Capt. (temporary major) Douglas Carmichael, who displayed great courage and determination in carrying out the destruction of important enemy works.

Lieut. William Albert Dawe, who, when in command of a raiding party, cleared a trench and captured two prisoners and remained behind after the withdrawal and blew up concrete machine gun emplacements.

Lieut. Wilfrid Derbyshire, who gallantly led a party to the objective and bombing several enemy positions, and was severely wounded.

Lieut. Andrew Warwick Duncan, who, when in command of a raiding party, gallantly led his men, in spite of a heavy fire, and carried out the task with conspicuous success.

Lieut. Charles Ridgeway Gilpin, who, when in command of a raiding party, personally led his men with great dash, and himself killed two enemy, and was severely wounded.

Lieut. Morris Bensley Thornhill, during a raid, displayed great courage and determination in rescuing several wounded officers under very heavy fire.

Official Report of French Gains

Paris, April 17.—Continuing their terrific attack against the German positions between Soissons and Rheims and east of the latter place today, the French carried German first line positions over many miles of front, captured powerfully-organized heights, occupied the important village of Auberive, and on this part of the front, about two miles in extent, took more than 2500 prisoners.

According to the official statement from the war office, strong German counter-attacks were repulsed. The number of German prisoners taken by the French Monday is now placed at 11,000.

The text of the statement follows: "We enlarged our action today east of Rheims and attacked the German lines between Frigny and the road between St. Hilaire and St. Sulpice. Notwithstanding violent gusts of rain and snow, our troops proved themselves irresistible. They carried on a front of 15 kilometres (nine and a third miles), despite the resistance of the enemy, all the first German positions south of Moronvillers.

"Pushing beyond this position our troops brilliantly carried, on a front of 11 kilometres, a line of heights solidly organized from Mont Carniel as far east as Vanducourt.

"Further to the east a spirited action enabled us to capture the village of Auberive and a powerfully-fortified salient formed by the German line around that village on a front of three kilometres. "Counter-attacks by the enemy in the direction of Mont Carniel were broken down by our fire. The number of prisoners taken by us on this part of the front exceeded 2500.

Wins Military Cross

Lieut. Conn Smythe, Canadian Field Artillery, son of Albert E. S. Smythe, The Toronto World, who has been awarded the Military Cross.



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Wheat Farmers Aint Got No Rites!



The Preacher: Are ye fer free-wheat, John?
The Landmark: Yuh bet I ain't. An' I'm goin' to have a motion picture out of South York Tories to swart Billy with, I rit th' yun fur MickNikel.
The Preacher: But you should blame it on Tom White and Borden—they're fer it.
The Mark: No, I got to swart all they swart. But Billy's to be blamed for everything. He's at th' bottom of th' kaiser gettin' our nickel, an' he's to blame for th' big taxes in Wee York.
The Preacher: An' fa was it that was correspondin' w th' kaiser till cum over an' pit King George at th' throne at Windsor an' til tak th' place himself if they pit home rule in Ireland?
The Mark: Are yuh on to that? That's a 'Tely sekrete. I ain't sayin' who it was; but wunst it kums out I'm goin' to blame it on Billy. Ov course th' kaiser is Queen Victoria's oldest child's sun an' can claim th' job if they home-rule Ireland. But when th' war kum on we had to throw th' kaise down an' we're black-jackin' him regier now. But if home rule kums on, then th' kaiser's sooner have th' kaise fur king than Redmond keepin' th' gates ov Derry. He may soon be lookin' fur a job.
The Preacher: But if free wheat pils up th' price of th' farmer's lan' an' gies him mair fer's corn len' yon a guide thing?
The Landmark: Nuthin' ain't no good that Billy does; an' Borden ort to be shot fur adoptin' his monkeyshines. The farmer ov th' wea' ain't got no rite to think; he ain't got no rite to get what he wants. They got to take what we give 'em! That's my idee ov Dim-mokrassey!

BRITAIN AVOIDS ELECTION UNTIL CRISIS IS PAST

Parliament's Life Will Be Extended Until November at Least.
IRISH QUESTION RAISED
Only Fifty-Two Votes Cast Against Extension of Term.

London, April 17.—All possibility of the country being disturbed in the near future by a general election was removed tonight, when, by a vote of 236 to 82, the house of commons passed on second reading the bill for the extension of the life of the parliament until November. The Nationalists were the chief opponents of the bill on the ground elaborated by John Dillon, member for East Mayo, that no solution of home rule for Ireland had yet been announced. Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war council, in concluding the debate on behalf of the government, admitted that a solution of the home rule problem would be a great advantage in the prospect of the war. The government, therefore, was not anxious, he said, for a settlement and was hopeful that the spirit of this question in the House would create an atmosphere favorable to a settlement now instead of waiting until after the war.

Premier Lloyd George's statement on the government's intentions, Mr. Bonar Law said, had been postponed until next week. He declared that there never had been a time when there was so much good will existing on this question and that it was needless to discuss it at a session of a session of the House.

Dillon's Complaint.
In opposing the extension, Dillon said the Nationalists would vote against the measure at every stage. The present government appeared to be no nearer a solution of the Irish question, and was continuing a state of things in which the Nationalist party could rightly be taunted with the fact that it could not speak for Ireland.

At the root of the terrible situation in Ireland today was the fact that the Nationalist party's work, extending over 35 years, of instilling into the minds of the Irish people the principles of the home rule movement, had been undone by the repeated disappointments and breaches of faith, and the contempt with which the advice of the Nationalists regarding the conduct of recruiting in Ireland and the whole campaign in favor of the war had been treated.

(Continued on Page 7, Col 3)