

COUNTER-ATTACKS BY BRITISH DRIVE GERMAN TROOPS BACK

Near Croiselles Fighting is Very Severe — Huns Capture a Village But Are Driven Out by Our Troops—Increasing Losses to the Enemy.

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 24.—The Germans are pressing their attack hard on the right flank of the British near Ham, while on the northern end of the battle line desperate fighting has been going on since yesterday about Mory, which has changed hands several times.

It is reported that some of the enemy infantry pushed down across the Somme canal and drove forward against prepared positions to which the British had retired.

German cavalry was seen behind the advancing German infantry, and there was small doubt that the attacking forces intended to make a supreme effort to rupture the British line in this sector, which is near the junction of the French and British lines.

The British strategical withdrawal along the battlefield to better positions has been carried out deliberately and in accordance with the plan, there saving the lives of British troops, while the attacking forces have been advancing under increasing difficulties with huge loss of life.

About Mory the battle has been especially fierce, and when the story of the British defense can be read it will be a record of a magnificent stand. The fighting here began yesterday morning, when the Germans attacked with a superior number of troops.

The British held on during the day, but last evening the enemy gained a foothold in the village after a sanguinary struggle at close quarters.

The Germans advanced for this new attack from Croiselles and for hours were held off by a company of British machine gunners who were stationed on high ground and swept the enemy ranks with a grilling fire.

The British organized a counter-attack as soon as the Germans entered the village and pushed the enemy back.

BRITISH AT ST. QUENTIN FALL BACK TO NEW LINE

Retirement is Made to Prepared Positions and It Does Not Indicate Material German Success — Heavy Fighting All Along Western Front.

Special to The Standard.

London, March 25.—Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery has broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, the war office announces. The British troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding the positions.

The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions further west. Very heavy fighting with fresh enemy forces is in progress.

The war office states that there are prepared positions behind the British

to which they are falling back.

The statement follows:

"Heavy fighting continued until late hours last night on the whole battlefield. During the afternoon powerful hostile attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery broke through our defensive west of St. Quentin.

"Our troops on this part of the battlefield are falling back in good order across the devastated area to prepared positions further west. Our troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding the positions. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is in progress."

WASHINGTON CONFIDENT HUN RUSH WILL BE STOPPED

Special to The Standard.

Washington, March 24.—While the most intense interest prevails here in the gigantic struggle on the western front, confidence remains unshaken that the German thrust will be eventually repulsed. On all sides admiration is expressed at the skill with which the British met the greatest shock ever hurled at an army.

Even should the British be forced further to regroup their lines, the impetus of the German blow must diminish from now on, military experts believe, and counter-strokes on a major scale are then expected. The war department has cabled General Pershing, the American commander for the exact situation on the British battle front.



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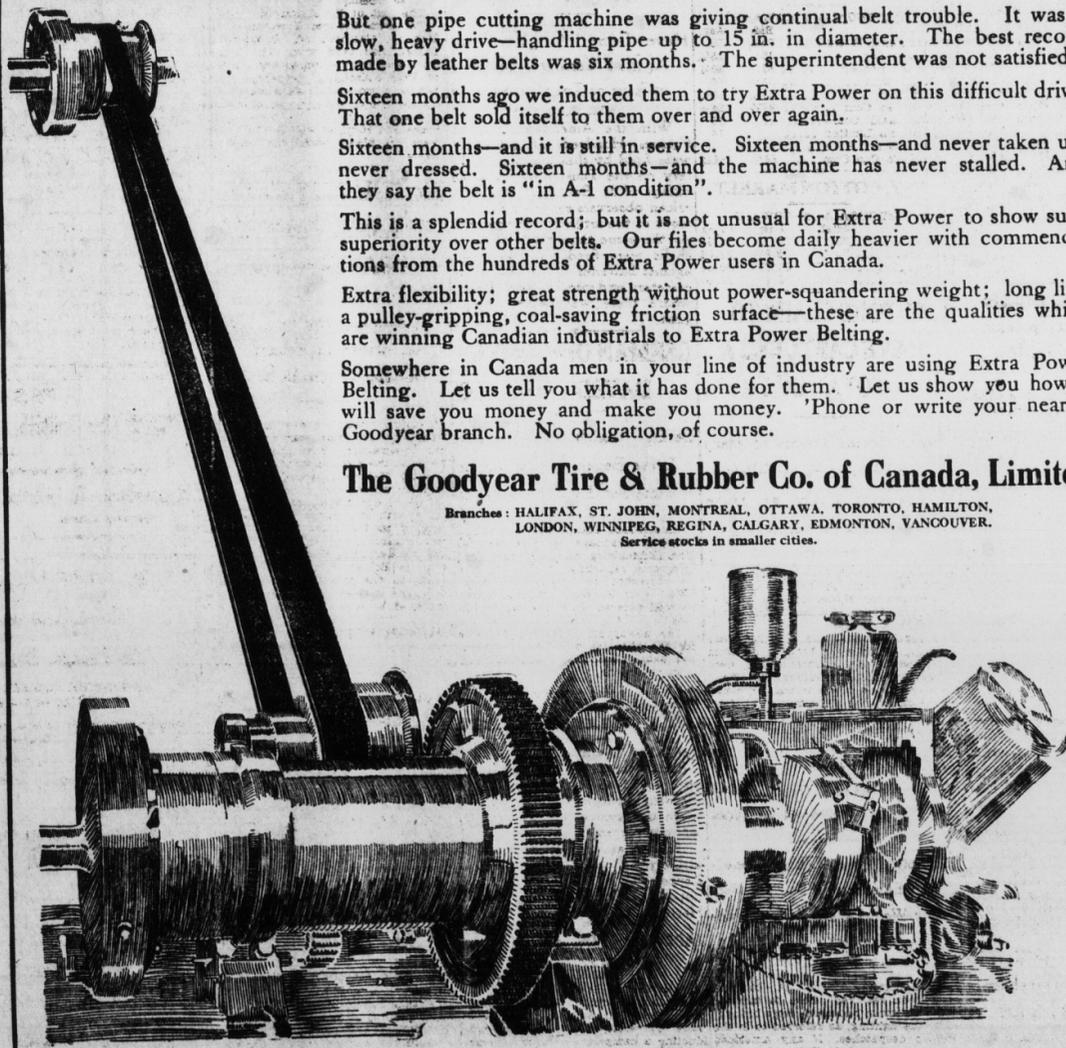
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Drawing of the actual machine referred to above

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