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# Steer Brothers.

## Poelcappelle and Langemark Reported in Enemy Hands.

### WAR SUMMARY.

Out of the changes of the tremendous battle along the Lys River south and southwest of Ypres, the thunder of which may be heard 40 or 50 miles away, there have come during the past days, reports which are more encouraging to the Allied Powers. The British have not only held all the ground which they were defending on Tuesday but have struck back so successfully that Mettern and part of Wytshaete were retaken and held for a time. Only after heavy attacks did the British retire again from the villages. The most disturbing news has been a report from Berlin that Poelcappelle and Langemark, north of Ypres, have been taken by the Germans and the admission that the British have retired from several of their lines in the Ypres salient. The retirement here was expected, for the advance of the German line to a point which is officially reported to be a flank attack, it is generally held that it will have a strategic effect. Just how far the British lines have been withdrawn is not known. It may be, however, that the German claim of taking Poelcappelle and Langemark is the result of the British retirement. The battle now in its eighth day has deepened in intensity at many points along the curved front from Messines Ridge to Mettern. There have been reports that the Germans have occupied the village of St. Klot, which lies less than three miles south of Ypres, but these have not been confirmed. It was said also that the Germans have taken possession of the south slope of Mt. Kemmel, which is about two miles north of Wulverbergh. This has not been confirmed. On the rest of the front from Messines Ridge southward, the Germans have flung their lines without success against the wall of the British. Official and semi-official reports have told of the frightful losses inflicted on the attacking masses of troops by the British rifle and machine gun fire. On the southern salient there have been reports of some magnitude, especially east of Robeco, five miles west of Bethune, where the German line was broken by the British artillery fire and scattered. The line in the north of Arras has again been the scene of fighting, but here the British look the offensive and drove the Germans out of British trenches which had been carried by the enemy. In artillery engagements between the Ypres and Oise Rivers, but only a few encounters are reported officially. Further south only raiding operations have been going on.

### GENERAL MAURICE TALKS.

LONDON, April 17. The greater part of Wytshaete, probably all of it, is in the hands of the British, Major General Maurice,

announced to-day. Counter attacking successfully at Mettern and driven back the Germans half-way to Bailleul. They have also advanced and improved their line in the direction of Neuve Eglise. "The news is better," says General Maurice. "While it is not definitely known that Wytshaete is entirely in our hands, we hold the greater part and probably the whole of it. As mentioned in Field Marshal Haig's communique, we made a withdrawal to a new line on the Ypres salient. The withdrawal was decided upon yesterday. It was carried out partly on Sunday night and completed Monday. On Tuesday the Germans were still shelling trenches which we left the day before. I returned last night from France. The situation yesterday was very anxious, the Germans had taken Bailleul, Mettern and Wytshaete, and had brought four fresh divisions into action against us. If the enemy continued to maintain that pressure there looked to be vital danger to the ridge of heights, which includes Mount Kemmel, and which is the backbone of our defence on the northern portion of the battlefield; but the news last night and yesterday was better." General Maurice then referred to the successful British counter attack in the neighbourhood of Wytshaete, and to the British withdrawal in the Ypres salient, and continued: "Preparations for shortening our lines in the Ypres salient were made some time ago, and the direction to carry it out was reached before the fall of Bailleul, owing to the danger offered to our positions in the salient from a flanking movement. The withdrawal was not directed or governed by the adverse course of events around Bailleul, but by more general conditions. What of the whole situation? Our army has been through a very severe strain, and that strain has been reflected at home. The situation has had its critical moments and is still decidedly anxious, but remember we have accepted the principle of a united front, and must accept the consequences of that principle. We must look at the whole battle, not from our Army and sufferings, but from the standpoint of the whole Entente. The British army is playing the role which it often has played before; it is fighting a Waterloo, while Blucher is marching to the battlefield. Multiply the battle of Waterloo a hundredfold and the situation at noon in the battle, corresponds to the situation now in the great battle. The British Army is under a terrible hammering, but providing we stand that hammering without breaking, and providing Blucher is marching to the battlefield, there is no reason for discouragement. The enormous task which the British Army has performed and still is performing may be shown by a few figures. In this battle of Armentieres the Germans so far have engaged 28 divisions, and since March 21st they have engaged 126 divisions. Of these, the British

ing up of the ground won last autumn, has not been in vain, since it played a large part in wearing out the enemy, the last phase of which we are now entering. The withdrawal was accomplished with masterly skill, unhampered by the Germans. Our power resisted has greatly stiffened, while we have forced the enemy to lengthen his communications across ground which they would infinitely sooner be without. The bitter intensity of the fighting lulled during the forenoon. The hurricane artillery duel subsiding to spasmodic outbursts with long intervals of comparatively calm. We have taken numerous prisoners in the last two days. There are indications that an attack is coming between Bailleul and Wytshaete. At Royelles, south of Arras, there was a sharp conflict yesterday afternoon and night, but quiet seems to be restored there, our positions remaining the same. An expected infantry attack following fierce shelling of Villers Bretonnoux did not materialize, and the enemy did not attempt any advance.

### WYTSHAETE AND METERN AGAIN LOST.

LONDON, April 17. (Official)—French troops have now reinforced the British lines. This morning intense bombardments were opened by the enemy on practically the whole of the Lys front, and from the forest of Nieppe to Wytshaete were followed by infantry attacks. All these attacks have been repulsed, and considerable losses inflicted on the enemy. In counter-attacks reported in the morning our troops succeeded in entering the villages of Mettern and Wytshaete, but the enemy's continued hostile attacks were unable to hold their positions there. On the remainder of the British front there is nothing to report.

### METERN RETAKEN.

LONDON, April 17. (Official)—Yesterday evening we delivered a successful counter-attack in the neighbourhood of Wytshaete and at Mettern also. Our counter-attack recaptured the situation and the village remains in our hands. Throughout the afternoon and evening yesterday, hostile attacks north of Bailleul were repulsed with loss to the enemy. Bodies of German infantry advancing in close formation were caught under the fire of our troops at short range and suffered heavy casualties. We secured a few prisoners. The enemy also endeavoured to develop an attack yesterday, but the British continued following the bombardment already reported, but his advance was broken up by our artillery fire. In consequence of the progress made by the enemy on the Lys front our troops holding our forward positions west of Ypres have been withdrawn to a new line. The withdrawal was carried out deliberately without interference by the enemy. Yesterday afternoon parties of his troops advanced over our old position were caught by the fire of our outposts and destroyed. On the battlefield south of Arras parties of German infantry who had entered our trenches opposite Boyelles were driven out yesterday afternoon with the loss of several prisoners. Our line in this locality has been completely restored. The hostile artillery activity increased considerably early this morning on the British front south of the Somme.

### NO GAINS SINCE TUESDAY.

LONDON, April 17. The battle in Flanders is raging today with incredible intensity. The correspondent of Reuters' Limited at the British Army Headquarters in France, says in his latest reports enable the correspondent to judge, the battle is going in favor of the British. Notwithstanding the desperate attacks of the Germans they have gained no further ground since Tuesday morning, and apparently they have lost some. During his three year experience in the war zone, the correspondent says, he never has heard such terrific and unintermittent gunfire as has gone on here since Tuesday afternoon and which continues as he filed his despatch this morning. The British at dusk on Tuesday, says the correspondent, were awaiting a general attack in the neighbourhood of Wytshaete, south of Ypres, and were reported again to be holding the ground which they had lost there. Among the numerous enemy attacks Tuesday afternoon and evening on the northern front in Flanders, one in great force in the Zillebeke sector was disastrous for the Germans, whose massed waves were shot down at close range. They appeared to be making a breakthrough, and then the British gunners got on their flank, the correspondent says, and the slaughter was appalling.

### GASSING THE GERMANS.

PARIS, April 17. The evolution of the use of gas shells has taken surprising form in the present battle. The new method is to fire heavy slowly dispersing gases along charted lanes against the enemy filling the alternative spaces with quickly dissipating poison fumes. Storming attacks are then made by troops who charge when a sufficient interval of time has been given for the light gases to rise. The British gunners at one part of the line threw shells charged simply with a stinking composition. The Germans a few hours after discovered that this was non-poisoning and began laying their masks. After these shells had been fired for another 12 hours there was a sudden change to poison gases. About 2,000 Germans were caught without their masks and suffocated.

### FRENCH OFFICIAL.

PARIS, April 17. (Official)—There were no infantry actions during the course of the day. The enemy violently bombarded our first lines and several villages in the region north of Mont Didier. Our batteries efficaciously counter-shelled the enemy artillery, and carried out concentrations of fire on the German positions. On April 15th and 16th four German airships were brought down. It is confirmed that two other enemy machines were destroyed April 15th. EASTERN THEATRE.—On the left bank of the Struma, near Keupri Prosenik, 15 kilometres south of Demir Hesar, British patrols engaged in many combats with the Bulgarian advanced posts, and brought back prisoners. The enemy tried attacks, which failed completely, at the Cerna bend and west of Monastir. Reciprocal artillery actions took place in the Cerna bend, in the Monastir region and in the region of the Lakes.

### MAPS AND CASUALTY LISTS.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 17. (Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—The past twenty-four hours have been anything but a good time for the enemy. Von Ludendorff is doubtless telling the Germans to look at the maps. The answer is tell them to look at the casualty lists. Our shoring of the Passchendaele salient, and the giv-



# An Appeal

I am addressing this Appeal to all the people of Newfoundland, but especially to those of the Outports.

Your Government have decided to make another special attempt to obtain further recruits for the duties forced upon us by the War. I am anxious to explain to you in simple and strong words why those duties are yours.

In your sea-girt home you have, I know, your own dangers and anxieties to face. As I write this my mind is still full of the appalling disaster to the Florizel. But War you do not realise; you are beyond the sound of the guns which, in the South East corner of England, I have heard day after day breaking in upon the beauty and calmness of the summer air.

That awe-inspiring rumble of the guns which I ask you to imagine—that lurid light on the horizon which I ask you to picture are the signs of a terrible struggle for Right—a mighty effort to save from ruin, not only France, but every bit of free soil in the world, including this island of which you are so proud. The awful struggle seems to be approaching its climax now and your close kinsmen are in the middle of it.

Some may ask, What is the danger? and it is my purpose to endeavour to make it clear to you.

By some permission of Divine Providence, which we do not understand, a nation of criminals is now attacking all that is just and true in the whole world. Germany has set herself deliberately to violate every law of Right and every principle of Humanity.

Never before in History has a War been planned like this. Hitherto all wars have had some sort of pretext of right or impulse of passion. It has been reserved to the German military party to plot willfully and wantonly a great crime against the peace of mankind.

And the hypocrisy with which Germany supports the crime makes it still more abominable. As Judas treated the Christ, Germany is treating Civilization. Under appeals to God, Germany masks the utmost malignities of the devil. The German nation to-day knows no Law except that of the pagan, the liar, the rascal, the murderer. They are a curse let loose on the Earth. And the task demanded of all of us is to fight and conquer this curse just as in our moral life we are bound to fight and conquer Sin. The Cause is a far broader and holier Cause than that which impelled the Crusaders against the Saracens.

We may thank God that the greater nations of the World have realised the justice of the Cause; and I believe that every man in Newfoundland will one day be thankful that he was at least asked to face this question—"Is it not my higher duty to go out and save humanity from destruction?"

Remember that your wives, your children, your cottages, your boats, are in positive danger if the German breaks through France. As he is treating the foolish Russians, so he will treat every nation whom he touches—America, Canada, Newfoundland, are to him mere objectives for his greedy brutality. He is entirely evil, he has no sense of right and no feelings of Mercy.

This mass of incarnate selfishness is held back by the strong arm of the Allies in France. Will any man of British race decline to do all he can to defeat and crush it?

At this moment the need is specially great, for the Germans are now desperate. They begin to realise the truth of that dread decree "He that takes the sword, shall perish with the sword". At no hour will they hesitate if they can but escape the punishment that is their due.

Now on every man and woman among us lies the duty to bear a hand in administering that punishment a duty not only to ourselves but to posterity. If age or health prevent some of us from going they do not prevent us from following the greatest example ever set to mankind and making the sacrifice of that which is dearest to our hearts.

You young men I ask to listen carefully to the appeals which will once more be made to you in the next few weeks. Believe me that the voluntary act of a man, impelled by the high sense of duty, is far nobler than the mere obedience to the provisions of a public enactment.

One special word I say to women. Try to realise the sufferings of women and children wherever the Germans come; think of the little children starved in Belgium and slaughtered in cold blood in Armenia. Let your men folk stand out and protect you, for in helping to defeat the Germans they are protecting the honour and safety of all their dear ones at home.

### G. ALEXANDER HARRIS,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Government House, St. John's,  
30th March, 1918.

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RINARD'S LINIMENT CURES GARBET IN COWS.