French Repulse Heavy Offensive Against Fort Vaux at Verdun

CANADIANS HOLD LINE

(Continued from Page One.)

Mercer, moving to tillsonburg, Oxford County. The family home in Tillsonburg was called "Westwood." Gen. Mercer received his early education at Chatham College, afterwards graduating from Toronto University. He then entered law and was partner in the firm of Mercer & Bradford, with offices in the Manning Arcade.

It was in 1881 that Gen. Mercer joined "K" Company of the Queen's Own Rifles as a private. This company was familiarly known as the "University" Company, and has been noted for the number of its members who have since become officers.

The company at that time was commanded by Capt. Alfred Baker, now a professor at Toronto University. Lieut.-Col. R. C. Levesconte, now commander of the 166th Overseas Battalion, was also a member of "K" Company of the Q. O. R. in 1881. In due course Gen. Mercer won his corporal's stripes

and very soon afterwards took his commission as a second

His next step upward, to rank of captain, was soon followed by his appointment as adjutant of the regiment, which position he administered in a very efficient manner. He held this position for between four and five years. His next position, that of junior major, was followed soon by promotion to rank of lieutenant-colonel, at first in command of the 2nd Battalion, and then of the 1st.

When Sir Henry Pellatt retired Gen. Mercer became com-mandant oft he Queen's Own, holding that position until the outbreak of the great war, and today is still one of the commandants of the regiment.

A Noted Marksman

Genfi Mercer while with the Q. O. R. in Toronto was noted as a marksman. He was on the executive of the Dominion Rifle Association and held the position of adjutant of the Canadian contingent at Bisley, England.

At the outbreak of the present war Gen. Mercer was one of the first to offer his services, and left Toronto as lieut.-colonel in command of 800 Q. O. R. men, going first to Valcartier Camp, then to Salisbury Plain, England, and then to the firing

line in France. While overseas he was raised to rank of brigadier-general and soon afterwards to his present rank of major-general in command of the Canadian divisions at the front.

When in Toronto Gen. Mercer lived at 158 West St. John's road. A brother, Frederick Mercer, resides on Englewood Drive.

Brig. Gen. V. A. S. Williams.

Brigadier-General Victor Arthur Seymour Williams, who is reported as wounded and a prisoner, is the son of the late Lieut. Col. Arthur Trefusis Heneage Williams, M.P., who commanded the Midland Regiment during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, and died while on active service, and Emily Williams, second daughter of the late Hon. Benjamin Seymour, senator. He was born at Pennyn Park, Port Hope, June 2, 1866, and educated at Trinity College School there and the Royal Military College Kingston. He was married in Oct., 1890, to Nellic, daughter of Hugh Sutherland, Winnipeg. He was an inspector of the Northwest Mounted Police, 8817-89, lieutenant in the Mounted Infantry Corps, 1889, captain in the Royal Canadian Dragoons in 1893, brevet-major in 1901, major in 1903, prevet-flexit. Col. Commanding the regiment in 1907, chief staff officer of castern Ontario in 1905-07, inspector of cavalry H. Q. since 1907, and is commandant of the Toronto School of Cav-

FRENCH BEAT FOES IN FURIOUS FIGHT

Desperate Struggle for Fort Vaux Continues at Verdun.

BATTER ENEMY GUNS

Artillery of Ally Greatly Damages Three German Batteries.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, June 4.—Continuous shting, which at times rose to exfighting, which at times rose to extreme intensity, prevailed around Fort Vaux, one of the dismantled works of the old defences of Verdun, east of the Meuse, yesterday and today, with the result that altho they sacrificed vast numbers of men, the Germans were unable to modify the situation. The French repulsed every German attack and slaughtered the enemy with their artillery and machine gun fire. The intervals between the attacks were marked by a violent artillery bombardment with all sizes of shell.

The fighting opened yesterday with the Germans retaining a foothold in Damloup Village and in the greater part of the Calliette wood, which they had penetrated Friday night. They had also penetrated a ditch north of Yort Vaux. These initial gains ended their progress. They had brought up sunk on May 27.

*WAR SUMMARY *

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

HE Germans, Austrians and Turks appear to be either on the offen-

Tyrol, without gains by the enemy. The effect of this assumption of great energy will be to exhaust the Germans all the faster if the allies properly

manage the game and judging by what they have done in the past they will do it in the future. In connection with these offensives must be mentioned the sortie of the German fleet and its beating and flight.

victory last Wednesday afternoon over the German high sea fleet and only for the obscurity of the weather with a haze hanging low over the North Sea, it would have won another Trafalgar. Only a part, not half of the British fleet was engaged, and it bore the brunt of the fighting with the

entire German navy. It is not necessary, in order to do the Germans full justice, to concede them any kind of naval success. The British Admiralty asserts that the Claims of the German Admiralty are faise and the fact that

the general situation remains under British control confirms the assertion

and Germany, the German losses are probably thrice as great. The money lost in the British ships sunk was well spent. It probably prevented the

manders of the British warships to enable Sir John Jellicoe to write a

despatch completely describing the action. But it has been established that the German high sea fleet was sent on a mission northward. That mission,

if accomplished, would certainly have involved the breaking of the block-

ade. The whole German fleet may have contemplated making a sally to sea, like the fleet of Villeneuve in Nelson's time, in the year preceding the

controversy with President Wilson, who is anxious to assert himself in a sig way just before the United States elections. If the German fleet had emerged into the open sea, maritime trade would have been paralyzed,

till it was sunk or driven back into harbor. Raids might have been made

on transports carrying British reinforcements to Frence. Attacks would

doubtless have been made on transports probably carrying men from Rus-

sia to France. A period of anarchy on the ocean would have set in.

Sufficient detailed reports have not yet been received from the com-

Any person who is inclined to think that the British fleet had no

enemy from doing ten times that amount of damage.

Latest authentic information shows that the British fleet won a great

fresh divisions from somewhere for the battle. One was identified in the region of Le Mort Homme, and the other was identified in the region of Douaumont. Foe Failed at Fort Vaux. Several attempts were made by the Germans' last night and this morning to turn the French positions at Fort Vaux, but the French assert that all these were unsuccessful. In the night Teuton troops gained a lodgment in French trenches in a ravine between Damloup and Fort Vaux, but they were immediately driven out by a counter-attack. They launched a second attack against the same point on Sunday morning and it was checked by French artillery fire. Atter this failure the enemy continued to bombard the French positions round Vaux and Damloup, and he directed his guns with particuair energy against the slopes of Bols Fumin, northwest of this fort, and it was stopped short by German machine gun fire. Three German batteries in the **GERMAN ATTACK**

Four Small Parties of Troops

GUNS SUPPORT RAIDS

Artillery Hastily Shells Trenches About

fire.

Three German batteries in the Caurieres wood were located and greatly damaged by French gunfire. The French batteries also dispersed German concentrations in Callette wood. East of the Meuse, the artillery activity has been extremely intense in the region of Hill 804. French artillery fire stopped, German preparations to attack. Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, June 4.—The British wa office reported at midnight that great-

CHOPPED OFF HIS OWN THUMB.

Fred Thompson, 9 Amroth avenue, accidentally chopped off his left thumb with an ax Saturday afternoon while cutting some meat for Henry Armstrong, butcher, St. Lawrence Market, for whom he was employed. He was taken to St. Michael's Hospital in the police ambutacked our trenches but were d back with considerable loss by

incked our trenches but were driven back with considerable loss by our artillery and machine guns.

"North of the River Ancre about Zerre two small parties of our troops entered German trenches and killed some of the occupants. They returned with slight loss. At Monchy-au-Bais and Neuville St. Vaast two more parties of our troops broke into the enemy's lines, causing him losses, and returned with prisoners. Our artillery effectively supported all these enterprises. The enemy exploded not many finds, causing no serious damage.

"Today the enemy hastily bombarded our trenches to the northeast and also about Souchez and Loos. Our artillery engaged hostile batteries south of Lens and east of Arras."

DITICH AIDMEN DOMAD

| Agriller Scotland; 49878, John Hendarson. Scotland 440363, Chas. R. Jeffries, England; A298 Wm. F. Kliff, England; Capt. Francis E. Morkill Scotland, 21951, Hubert C. Maller, England; Capt. Francis E. Morkill Scotland, 477883, Robert Stewart, Scotland; 21951, Hubert C. Maller, England; Capt. Francis E. Morkill Scotland, 477883, Robert Stewart, Scotland; 477883, Robert Stewart, Scotland; 21951, Hubert C. Maller, England; Capt. Francis E. Morkill Scotland, 477883, Robert Stewart, Scotland; 21951, Hubert C. Maller, England; Capt. Francis E. Morkill Scotland, 477883, Robert Stewart, Scotland; 477883,

sive or about to take the offensive in every theatre of the war and all this action surely indicates that the crisis of the war is approaching; that the enemy realizes that his striking powers are near the diminthat the enemy realizes that his striking powers are near the diminishing point and he is striving to obtain some big success before his strength BRITISH AIRMEN BOMB begins to ebb. The Turce-Teuton offensives lately under the strength begins to ebb. begins to ebb. The Turco-Teuton offensives lately undertaken are as follows: Against the Canadians, east of Ypres; against the Russians in the regions of Riga and Dvinsk; against the Russians in the Caucasus, and not improbably against Saloniki, as the swift assumption of control over secular affairs in that city by the allies would indicate an expected attack. All this time heavy fighting is being maintained at Verdun and in the

Twenty-Six Machines Carry Out Important Mission in Flanders.

GERMANS RAID TOUL

Six Persons Killed and Ten Wounded by Teuton Aeroplanes.

the general situation remains under British control confirms the assertion of the admiralty. If the German version of the fighting, as given out for consumption by a credulous German public, was true, why on earth should the German general staff and naval authorities have deemed it necessary was merely taken to avert further clamoring from groups of members of the Teuton debating society, otherwise "parliament," who had been demanding energetic action from the German fleet to alleviate the rigors of the blackade. By making a perfectly frank but guarded statement to the house, sure while the German fleet is not in fit condition to take the seas.

The latest British list of German naval losses is as follows: Two first class battleships; two dreadnought cruisers of the most powerful type; latest British list of German naval losses is as follows: Two first two of the latest light cruisers, the Wiesbaden and Elbing; one light cruiser of the Rostock type; one light cruiser, the Frauenlob: nine destroyers and a submarine; total 18. Against this is the British loss of 14 units. In percentage of loss in relation to the respective naval strength of Britain and Germany, the German losses are probably thrice as great. The money is the British ships sunk was well apent. It probably repeated the fact that the fact that LONDON, June 4.—With favorable weather for aerial activity arriving again, a guadron of 26 British acroplanes and squadron of 26 British acroplanes and command probable weather for aerial activity arriving again, as guadron of 26 British acroplanes on bombed some points of military importing considerable damage. One British machine was brought down by gunfire from anti-aircraft weapons in the German lines. The rest returned safely to their own lines. The German skept their alignst inactive. Six persons were killed and ten wounded by a group of German acroplanes engaged in a raid on Toul in eastern franchine was struck. A French pursuit squadron imachine at a result of the forman lines and some probable weather

BABY FOUND DEAD IN BED.

John Nelson McLean, eight months old, an inmate of the Salvation Rescue Home, 95 Bellevue avenue, was found dead in bcd yesterday morning, supposedly smothered by the mother lying on him. The body was removed to the morgue, where an inquest will be held today.

DINEEN'S STRAWS AND PANAMAS

sea, like the fleet of Villeneuve in Nelson's time, in the year preceding the battle of Trafalgar. In these days of steam-propulsion and high speed, once that fleet got to sea, it would be a heavy needle-in-a-haystack-seeking once that fleet got to sea, it would be a heavy needle-in-a-haystack-seeking once that fleet got to sea, it would be a heavy needle-in-a-haystack-seeking out of hat satisfactory and the sea of the sea of the sea of the satisfactory and the sea of The straw hat that will fit you most Dineen's. All the justification in molesting the Germans off their own coast and that the battle-cruiser squadron should not have opened the engagement, ought to look at this matter in a large way and consider what would have happened if the Germans had been allowed to accomplish their mission. The blockmakes, shapes and styles in straws and

Toronto, and at 20-22 ade would have been broken and this would involve the allies in a long West King street,

DER LONGSOMENESS. Der tag didn't come along, and der grand fleet ran along—to safe waters. And in spite of the Sinn Feiners it's a

long way for the Kaiser to Tipperary.

CANADIAN CASUALTIES

Midnight List INFANTRY.

office reported at midnight that greatly increased activity was noted along the whole of the front in Flanders, which resulted in the repuise of German attacks and the successful breaking into the lines of the enemy by the British at several points. The British official statement concerning the operation in the British lines other than on the front of the Canadian third division is as follows:

"Last night there was increased activity along the whole of our front. North of Fricourt, after a heavy bombardment, a party of 200 Germans attacked our trenches but were driven back with considerable loss by our bardment; September 19 of 19 of

ARTILLERY. Died of wounds-41240, Driver Thomas

MEDICAL SERVICES. Wounded-Lieut.-Col. Arthur W. Tan

Sunday Afternoon List INFANTRY.

Killed in action—24842, Lance-Corp. Ruby Charles Hill, Longueuil, Que.; 412146, Pte. Clayton Pickell, Belleville,

Ont.
Died of wounds—141786, Ptc. James Albert Scott. Collingwood, Ont.: 24310, Ptc. John Watson, kin at 1816 Bordeaux street, Montreal.
Seriously ili—126005, Ptc. Harvey Douglas Grigg, kin in Woodstock, Ont.
Prisoner of war at Hanover—460300, Ptc. Harold Henry Raine, Maple Creek, Sask.
Previously reported missing, now officers.

Presence of war at nanover-460300, Sask.

Previously reported missing, now officially prisoner of war at Res Lazarett Marchilf Aschen-76101, Pte. Minard Gerald Hill, Vancouver, B.C.

Wounded—A20484, Pte. Robert Barrowman, 26 Knox street, Point St. Charles, Montreal, Que.; Major John William Allan, Winnipes, Man.; A14313, Pte. Edward Ernest Boutilier, Spring Hill Junction, N.S.: 185886, Pte. Lawrence William Brady, Lancaster, Oni.; 140513, Pte. Alex. Campbell, 103 Silver Birch avenue, Toronto; 153822, Pte. Russell William Cook, Regina, Sask.

Killed in action—400874, Pte. Alexander Adams, Scotland; 477173, Lance-Corp. Herbert Clark, England; A36117, Pte. Harry Gill, England; 18078, Pte. Edward Pyne, South Wales; 401020, Pte. Ernest Sharp, England; 10971, Corp. John Stacey, England; Lieut, William Duncan Stevena, England; Si518, Pte. George Henry Young, Scotland.

Died of wounds—A4009, Pte. William Attfield, England; 477853, Pte. Geo. Smith, England.

Previously reported wounded, missing, now reported officially dead April 6—424419, Pte. Harry Ruberry, England.

Sericusly ill—602197, Pte. Thos. Feirn, England.

Acricusly ill—602197, Pte. William John Bere, England; A10770, Pte. William John Bere, England; 4606773, Pte. Jack Caton.

Seriously ill—602197, Pte. Thos. Feirn, England.

Seriously ill—602197, Pte. Thos. Feirn, England.

Wounded—153665, Pte. Alexander Bell, Scotland; A10770. Pte. William John Bere. England: 4606773, Pte. Jack Caton, England; A75, Pte. Alex. Cochrane, Scotland; 439615, Pte. John Dytor, England; A34546, Pte. Horace Elwin Gudgeon, England; 79100, Sergt. Gustav Lawson, Scotland; 404389, Sergt. Wm. Penman Lawson, Scotland; 405352, Pte. James McMenemy, Ireland; 405352, Pte. James McMenemy, Ireland; 155045; Pioneer Harvey Boxwell Rind, Thompson, England.

Died of wounds—421029, Corp. Alexander Scott Clark, Scotland; 126287, Pte. Percy Hodkins, England.

Wounded—408051, Pte. Charles Cox. Halifax, N.S.; 622916, Pte. James Henry Daly, Winnipes; 65278, Corp. Osmond Alfred Donovan, Highlands, Lachine, Que.; 458298, Pte. Fred Farrell, 3 Montmorence street, Point St. Charles, Montreal; 458025, Pte. Alexander Fenton, King street, Simcoe, Ont.; 40572, Pte. Wilfred, Fox. Lambton, Ont.; 417859, Pte. Alexander Gauthier Limollou, Que; 472276, Pte. Wilbrood Gregoire, Laurier-ville, Que.; 65392, Pte. Edgar Robert Grenough, 441 Richelieu street, Montreal; 424478, Pte. Robert Parland, Moore Park, Man.; 430307, Pte. William Henry James, Morrissey, B.C.; 416306, Pioneer

MOUNTED RIFLES.

rounded—14389; Ftc. Aired 1; England; 110018, Ptc. Fresilliam Atkinson, 21A Lorne abortreal; 117165, Ptc. Aired 1528, Vancouver, B.C.; 111247, orge Henry Hutchinson. Loc le, N.S.; 422178, Ptc. James H. skatoon. Sask.; 110218, Ptc. Trythe Hall, Lennoxville, Que; e. Hugh Christie Manning.

ARTILLERY. Wounded-84032, Gunner Wilfred Wil-am Wallace, Merritton, Ont.

NIAGARA HOSPITAL

As Result of Injuries Sustained When Struck By Lightning.

PECULIAR EXPERIENCES

Current Photographed Pictures of Trees on Men's Bodies-Camp Mudhole.

NIAGARA CAMP, Ont. June 2.—This morning the sides cleared, but while it was pleasant overhead the camp was comething in the nature of a big mudhole. Gen. Logie inspected the troops drawn up on the common and then left for Toronto.

This afternoon the massed bands

comething in the nature of a big much hole. Gfb. Logic inspected the troops drawn up on the common and then left for Toronto.

This afternoon the massed bands rendered selections and there were many visitors to the camp. The whole talk today was about yesterday's calamity at Queeneton Heights, when Pte. Wm. Creary of the 169th was citt off so suddenly. The soldiers have digaret when my legs shot out from under me, and that's all I remember for a while. Then when I came to again I wondered what had happened to my companion, said a 99th Battalion man today. One small bugier of the 118th threw up his hands and his bugie went flying thru the air, and he went down and his commander thought he was dead.

Today fifty men are in Niagara camp hospital, all from the effects of lightning shock. None is seriously hurt.

In all there are 130 in the hospital now. One of the men who was knocked over by the lightning has the photograph of the tree he was standing beside imprinted on his body.

Rifles were twisted and melted into queer shapes by the lightning. One man reports that he had all the eyelets pulled out of his shoes by the electric current and the laces fell to the ground, but he wasn't hurt. Another man had the sole of his shoe taken off, and he only felt a little tremor on his foot.

The body of Pte. Creaar was taken to Toronto today, A party from his battalion will probably go to Toronto to attend the funeral. There is only a small mayer on Creaar's forehead to show how the lightning killed him, but his cap badge is photographed on his forehead as if it had been made with a new rubber stamp. His widow and three children live at 459 Clinton street, Toronto.

Hundreds of passes were issued to soldiers for the week-end today, it seems to be the consensus of opinion here now that probably more of the present 12,500 men in Camp Niagara will be moved to Camp Borden, but that they will all stay here till they go cverseas. Several battalions expect to go soon.

SIX-YEAR-OLD RECRUIT LIKES AMERICAN LEGION

Refuses to Tell Who He is. So Was Turned Over to Children's Aid Society.

The Children's Aid Society have in their custody a boy about six or seven years old, who was found by them at the headquarters of the 97th Battalion (American Legion) Exhibition Camp yesterday. The boy took a fancy to stay with the men of the 77th, but they thought it better that his parents be traced up and communicated with the C.A.S.

The only information the boy will give is that his name is Harry. He refuses to tell where his home is. He is described as being "medium-dark, hazel eyes and wearing corduroy leggings and a khaki shirt.

Four recruits for the 220th York County Battalion were secured at a meeting held in the Maple Leaf Theatre, Mount Dennis, on Sunday night. Lieut. J. H. A. Stoneman presided. The other speakers were Rev. J. C. Hodgins of Toronto and Lieut E. M. Leone

ITALIANS CONTAIN ENEMY OFFENSIVE

Austrian Attempts in Trentino.

HEAVY ATTACKS FAIL TURKS SUFFER DEFEAT

Two Assaults in Masses Beaten on Posina-Astico Front.

of reporting on Sunday.

On the Posina-Astico front the Austrians were also beaten. They threw forward their infantry in an attempt to break thin, the Italian line in the direction of Onaro, southeast of Arsiero. The Italians strongly counterattacked them and drove them back. This Austrian failure was followed up by the throwing of huge masses of their infantry against the Italian positions between Col Zomo and Col Posina. This offensive shared no better fate of the previous ones. The Austrians were thrown back with very serious losses.

A struggle is being continued with fluctuating fortunes for the possession of Monte Cengio on the Sette Comuni plateau.

CAPT. DUNCAN MADE

APPEAL FOR RECRUITS Good Meeting Held in Metropolitan Church Grounds Last

A vigorous appeal for every eligible to get into uniform and help to fill the gaps which the latest fighting in France must have made in the Canadian lines, teatured the address of the Rev. Capt. Duncan, chaplain of the 216th Peel Battallon, who came over from the Ningara Camp to appear at an open-air meeting conducted in the Metropolitan Church grounds last night in the interests of the 204th Beaver Battallon. Rev. Mr. Duncan, having sent all his sons to the front, was in a position to make his call upon eligibles.

"It is a thousand times better to keep the fighting three thousand miles away from your homes, even if it takes the best and the oravest in our land to do it," he said. "It is far better or a man to die fighting bravely at such a time as this then it is to go on living out a frivclous life."

Anglo-French Troops Occupy Telegraph Offices, Port and

DECREES MARTIAL LAW

Gen. Petain Relieves Chiefs of Gendarmes and Police of Functions.

LONDON, June 4.—The entente alliced troops have occupied the telegraph offices, the port and customs house at Saloniki, according to a Reuter despatch from that city. At the same time they have taken extensive precautionary measures about the town to prevent possible opposition. The commanders of the gendarmes and the police have been relieved of their functions, the despatch says, and martial law has been proclaimed.

RUSSIANS CHECK FOE'S OFFENSIVE

Resistance Completely Stops Germans Display Great Activity Near Dvinsk and Riga.

Czar's Men Drive Moslem From Rivandouza in Three Days' Fight.

Special Cable to The Toronte World.

LONDON, June 1.—In the past two days of fighting on the Tyrol front the Italians held their own with great success against the Austrians, according to official reports from Rome, and every Austrian effort was checkmated by the Italian resistance.

The Italians completely stopped an increasingly offensive action by the enemy in the Trentino along the whole front of attack. In the Lagarina valley an artillery duel was fought. The Austrians ared on the Italian positions lying between Conizuga, a height dominating Rovereto, to Pasubio in the Terragoto sector and the Italian artillory replied and dispersed hostile detachments on Zugnatorta. This ongagement was continued up to the time of reporting on Sunday.

On the Posine-Astico front the Austrians report a heavy artillery bombardment on the Beasarablan and Galican fronts and say that they re-

Tele

500

MARKHAM TOWNSHIP LOSES PROMINENT MAN

Death of William T. Hood Took Place Sunday After a Long

The death of William T. Hood of Buttonville, a well known farmer of Markham Township, took place at the family residence on Sunday after a long illness. Mr. Hood was a son of the lati William Hood of Amber on the York and Markham townline, and was the eldest o a large family of brothers and sisters He is survived by a widow, three son and two daughters. The sons are: Laslie, Douglas and Gordon, and the daughters Edith and Irene. Mr. Hood habeen for many years prominently identified with the St. John's Presbyterial Church, of which he was an active member, and later was a member of the session of the same church at Brown

ISLINGTON REGRETS LOSS OF REV. C. S. APPLEGATH.

the same time another resolution re-leasing the minister from his charge at the close of the conference year in order to allow him to accept the call to the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church as as-sociate pastor was adopted. Rev. Mr. Applegath during his pastorate in lesing-ton has taken a lively interest in every progressive movement and was largely instrumental in getting under way the Islington Town Improvement Associa-tion. He will now accept the invita-tion from the Eaton Memorial Church board and enter upon his duties on the first Sunday in July.

LOWER RATES HOTEL ROYAL, HAMILTON American plan, \$2.50 and up per day.
European plan, \$1.00 and up per day.

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