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War News.

Messages Received Previous to 9 A.M.

BRITISH GAINS.

LONDON, March 17. British troops have made another extensive advance, entering the German positions on a front of 16 miles. The official from the British headquarters to-night says that on the north the British gain reached from Bapaume to Monchy-au-Bois and included the villages of Le Transloy, Achiet le Grand, Achiet le Petit, Buequay, and others. On the south the gain included various villages from La Maisonnette, south of Peronne to Fresnes.

GERMANS WITHDRAWING.

PARIS, March 17. The withdrawal by the Germans is still proceeding rapidly over a wide section of the French front. To-day's official says: The French have defeated the German rearguards and continue to advance, and have occupied all ground between their old lines and the Roye-Noyon road from Damery as far as Lassigny heights, and are continuing the pursuit of the Germans north of the Noyon road.

FRENCH ADVANCE.

PARIS, March 18. To-day's statement reads: Along the whole of the front between Amiens and the Oise, about fifteen miles, the enemy is declining battle and abandoning under pressure of our troops the powerfully and skillfully fortified lines, which they had held for more than two years. To-day's advance movement continued rapidly, our advance guard entering Roye and pursuing the enemy contingent which blew up crossings of streets and interior sections. About eight hundred of the civilian population whom the Germans did not have time to remove, greeted our soldiers with enthusiasm. North and south-east of Lassigny, which we likewise occupied, we have reached and even advanced beyond the road between Roye and Noyon. In the course of our pursuit we have made prisoners who have not yet been counted. Violent artillery fighting took place in Champagne in the region of Maisons-de-Champagne, and on the right bank of the Meuse. We directed a destructive fire effectively against the German organization in the region of Acoourt. There is nothing to report on the rest of the front. Last night

our air squadrons bombarded enemy organizations in the region of Ainsville and the factories and blast furnaces at Walklingen where a great fire broke out as well as the stations and roads in the region of Ham and St. Quentin. All our airplanes returned undamaged. In reprisal for setting fire to Bapaume one of our airplanes to-day bombarded the town of Frankfurtmain.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE.

PETROGRAD, March 18. The Russian advance on the Caucasian front is being continued over a large section. The War Office to-day announced the capture of Baneh, which is in Persia, about ten miles from the Turkish border.

GREAT ADVANCE BY BRITISH.

LONDON, March 18. British troops are continuing their rapid advance on the heels of the retreating Germans and occupied the important towns of Nesle, Chaulnes and Peronne. Along a front of about 45 miles they have entered German positions to a depth of 10 miles in places. In addition the British have taken over sixty villages. The announcement of these gains is contained in the official reports.

The British headquarters statement reads: We have occupied Nesle, Chaulnes and Peronne. Pressing back the enemy's rearguards we advanced several miles during the past 24 hours to a depth up to 10 miles in places on a front of approximately 45 miles from the south of Chaulnes to the neighborhood of Arras. During this period in addition to the towns above mentioned we gained possession of over 60 villages. Two enemy raiding parties reached our trenches in the night northeast of Vermelles area. There was great activity in the air yesterday. A number of large enemy formations were engaged by our machines and dispersed. In the course of the fighting seven hostile airplanes were brought down and nine others were driven down damaged. Eight of our machines are missing.

The text of the statement reads: Bapaume has been captured by our troops after stiff fighting with the German guard. The town had been systematically pillaged by the enemy. All private houses and public buildings had been destroyed and everything of value carried off or burned. Our advance is proceeding rapidly. During the day on both banks of the Somme and south of the river, we have entered the enemy's position on a front of about 16 miles, and occupied the villages of Fresnes, Horgay, Villers Carbonell, Barleux, Elperlyng, and La Maisonnette. North of the river in addition to the town of Bapaume we are in possession

of the villages of Le Transloy, Biefvillers, Billincourt, Achiet le Grand, Achiet le Petit, Abfaisville, Buequay and Esarts. We also hold Queuoy farm, 1,500 yards northeast of the last-named village. We have gained the western and north-western defences of Monchy au Bois. We carried out successful raids this morning east and northeast of Arras. The enemy's support line was reached and two machine guns and a number of prisoners captured. A hostile raiding party was driven off during the night northeast of Vermelles. An encounter took place yesterday between a patrol of eight of our airplanes and 16 enemy machines with the result that in twenty minutes the hostile formation was broken up. Two German airplanes were destroyed and two others driven down damaged. All our machines returned.

THE CAPTURE OF PERONNE.

LONDON, March 17. The capture of Peronne by the British troops is announced by Reuters-correspondent at the British headquarters. The German retreat has been continuous all through the night and is covered by rearguard actions. It has spread very widely. The news has just been received of our troops entering Peronne. Favorable weather and drying ground our columns everywhere are pressing the retreating enemy. The scene of activity behind the enemy lines eclipse the busiest day in the Somme offensive. Our troops' attitude is one of demonstrative enthusiasm.

RETREAT OF THE TURKS.

LONDON, March 18. The British army in Mesopotamia says the official statement, in fighting on Wednesday on the right bank of the Tigris, drove the Turkish rearguard from a succession of ridges and a strong position covering the railway station at Mussaid. Our troops continued to attack the position during the night and finally captured it at 3 o'clock Thursday morning, the enemy retreating hastily. The retreat continued on Thursday, and by Friday afternoon the whole enemy force consisting of the remnants of three Turkish divisions were in full flight in the direction of Samarra. On the morning of Friday the enemy was straggling over a distance of 70 miles, with their rear 25 miles from the scene of fighting on Wednesday.

BERLIN ADMISSION.

BERLIN, March 18. The systematic retreatment of the German troops between Arras and the Oise on the French front is announced by the war office to-day. Peronne, Noyon, Bapaume, Roye and

several other towns have been abandoned by the Germans. Twenty-two Allied airplanes were shot down yesterday by the Germans. On the Macedonian front violent artillery fighting is in progress. Attacks by the Allied troops north of Monastir, the statement says, gave them no important successes.

PURSUIT CONTINUES.

PARIS, March 18. The French official given out this afternoon reads: Between the Ayre and the Oise our troops made important progress during the night. All the ground between our old lines and the Roye-Noyon road from Damery as far as Lagny height is now in our hands. There were spirited engagements with portions of the enemy rearguard which terminated to our advantage and did not impede our progress. The pursuit continues north of the Noyon road in the region of Rheims. North of Seicheprey there were patrol engagements. Several attacks on Calonne trench cost the enemy losses without any results for him. Prisoners remained in our hands. Elsewhere the night was calm.

DRIVING THE TURKS.

PETROGRAD, March 18. The Russians are continuing their pursuit of the Turks in Persia, the war office to-day announced. The Turkish communication has been cut off by Russian cavalry and the Turks have fled into the mountains.

JEWS WILL BE FREED.

LONDON, March 18. The Weekly Despatch says it learns on excellent authority that the first legislative step of the new Russian Government will be to complete the freedom of all Russian Jews.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

ROME, March 18. After a discussion of economic questions the Chamber of Deputies adopted a resolution of confidence in the Government by a vote of 369 to 43.

HINDENBURG TO REPORT.

BERLIN, March 18. Marshal von Hindenburg has gone to the great headquarters to make a report on the situation to Emperor William.

FRENCH CABINET RESIGNS.

PARIS, March 18. The French cabinet, headed by Premier Briand, has resigned. An official note given out after the cabinet meeting said Council of Ministers met to-day at the Elysee Palace. The Premier reported the various consultations he had with a view to complet-

ing the cabinet so it could present itself at the Chamber of Deputies. After hearing him, the cabinet decided that circumstances compelled them to leave the President of the Republic complete liberty to interpret the situation in the best interest of national defence. Consequently the President of the Council put into the hands of the President of the Republic the resignation of the cabinet.

ARMENIAN CITY CAPTURED.

LONDON, March 17. The capture by the Russians of the city of Van in Turkish Armenia, is reported in a Reuter despatch from Petrograd.

REVOLUTION JOINED BY FLEET.

LONDON, March 17. The entire Russian Baltic fleet and fortresses at Viborg and Sveaborg have joined the revolutionary movement in Russia, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. from Copenhagen, which is based on reports received from Habarda, Sweden.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

PETROGRAD, March 18. After his abdication Emperor Nicholas returned to the General Staff headquarters. The attitude of the armies at the front in face of the new development is not yet known in Petrograd. It is generally believed the appointment of Grand Duke Nicholas as Commander-in-Chief will be received enthusiastically by the troops with whom he is extremely popular.

AMERICAN SHIPS SUNK.

LONDON, March 18. The American steamer Illinois, 5,252 tons, from London for Port Arthur in ballast, was sunk this morning. The crew are safe. The American steamer City of Memphis, 5,252 tons, in ballast, from Cardiff for New York, has also been sunk by gunfire. The second officer and 15 men have landed. A patrol boat has gone to search for the others. A third American steamer, the Vigilancia, 4,181 tons, has been sunk without warning.

THE MEMORABLE 17th.

PARIS, March 18. The 17th March will remain among the most memorable days of the war, in the opinion of the French, who regard the successes on the front from the Ancre to the Oise as the greatest since the battle of the Marne. It is considered not merely a local success but a veritable strategic retreat forced upon the Germans, the full consequence of which probably will not be revealed for several days. The fact that the French at certain points went beyond the road from Roye to Noyon, indicates that the German retreat will not end there. The Ger-

mans are still at Noyon. The favorite phrase of parliamentary opponents of the Government, who sought to impress upon it the fact that the Germans were only sixty-seven miles from Paris will now have to be abandoned 'tis hoped as the town is expected soon to be in the hands of the French. It would be difficult to say, military critics assert, where the Germans propose to establish a stable defence. The retreat of modern armies, encumbered with great supplies of material, can be effected only with extreme slowness, which permits an active and resolute adversary to maintain contact unceasingly. This is the first occasion since the armies have been established on the French front that French villages occupied by Germans have been occupied by French and English. Bapaume, Roye Lassigny and a large number of villages, Picardy and Artois, which for two years have not seen French uniforms, now can witness the tricolor of their country and the flags of their Allies. The victorious entry of the French into Roye on the heels of the retreating Germans was marked by stirring incidents in which 800 liberated citizens participated. Regardless of the danger the inhabitants threw themselves in front of the arriving French soldiers, all shouting as they did so, "Vive la France." The women hugged them while old people grasped their hands. Tears were in the eyes of all when suddenly a twelve-year-old boy began singing the Marseillaise, which was taken up instantly by the population. The onrushing waves of soldiers joined in and it was to the strains of the national anthem that the French outposts left Roye, pressing the retreating Germans. The general feeling is that the adversary has suffered a severe blow which may have still greater consequences. The French and British advance made over a ground measuring approximately 30 miles, about 53 miles, may be extended at some points where artillery actions have been exceedingly intense the last few days.

THE GREAT ADVANCE.

LONDON, March 18. The British and French troops which have been holding the line in France are now actively pushing forward on the heels of the fast retreating Germans. Latest gains have been made altogether on a front 100 miles or more, and the important towns of Bapaume, Peronne and Noyon, lying almost in a straight line running north and south, are in the hands of the Entente Allies, and between these, lying somewhat westward, Roye, Nesle and Chaulnes have been taken. The French are moving in the direction of Ham, on the Somme river, while the British are continuing to advance eastward from both Bapaume and Peronne. The cavalry, both Brit-

ish and French, is now active. Strong cavalry squadrons have been in motion for several days past, and have taken a prominent part in the operations which probably accounts for the rapidity of the Anglo-French advance. The Germans voluntarily evacuated much of the territory recently lost to them. There has been some fighting at various points where strong rearguards have been left by the German commanders to protect the retirement of the main army. Although there is no actual knowledge of the German plan of retreat, it is presumed in certain quarters that if the pressure of the British and French keeps up they will retire to a powerful line running from Lille to Laon and including the strongly defensive positions at Cambria and St. Quentin. These are all fortified cities, Laon being a fortress of first class and the scene of many battles in previous wars. Even at the present rate of progress it would be several days probably before the forces of the Allies would confront the defences. The French gains were made in two distinct sectors along a front of about thirty-seven miles between the Ayre and the Aisne. Their most important capture was the town of Noyon, a strategic point which lies almost due south of Peronne and north of Soissons, which lies less than 20 miles to the southwest of Laon. They also occupied the village of Crouy. Other villages were taken with the object of strengthening their new positions. It is to be noted the British official communication says we have occupied Nesle, and the French morning entered Nesle, while Nesle is apparently on the French line. The British have taken the town of Chaulnes, and it is possible that forces from both armies have entered Nesle which lies only a few miles southeast of Chaulnes.

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