

ENEMY INTENDED TO CRUSH BRITISH

First Phase of Battle Did Not End So Successfully for Germans.

AMIENS OBJECTIVE

Hindenburg Counted on Progressive Weakening of Allied Resistance.

Washington, March 26.—The following explanation of the battle situation was given by the Associated Press today by Gen. MacLachlan, British military attaché:

"The position in the battle zone is now clearer and it is possible to get a more general view of what has happened during the first five days' fighting."

"It is clear that yesterday the situation improved considerably. On the Somme between Morschain and Peronne the Germans were driven back to the eastern bank of the river. Several heavy attacks on other parts of the new line have been repulsed, and the line in general is being held. British and French reserves are being brought up."

"The first phase of the battle is in fact over, or as Hindenburg himself admits, 'the first act is ended.' It has not, however, ended so successfully for the German armies as Hindenburg would have the world believe. It is clear now that the German intention was to crush our first line with overwhelming masses of troops and break right thru into the open country behind. It is plain that Amiens was their objective in the battle. There was at any rate a great difference between their attack and an attack with a limited objective like the British attack on Ypres salient last year, the objective was always to nibble off a comparatively small and definite piece of the enemy's defence."

"The Germans on this occasion counted on breaking down the allied resistance at the start. As orders which have been sent out on their officers prove, they evidently anticipated that resistance would weaken as they pressed forward, and that each day they would advance further than the last until they had succeeded in bringing about on the western front open warfare of a kind which had not been seen in France or Belgium since the first months of the war. The enemy has failed in this effort. With a huge sacrifice of life he has pushed forward, but has failed to break it. His progress instead of increasing from day to day has slowed down steadily since then."

"Now, so far as can be seen, he is being held by an undiminished and effective defence. He may, of course, make further advances, but so long as our line is not broken, we can afford to retreat still further without giving him a victory to compensate him for his immense losses."

"And if the German losses are out of all proportion to the ground won, the allied losses in men and guns will be considerably greater than the ground won. Also behind the allied staffs the resources of the United States in manpower and material, and the determination to meet the continued demands on anything like the same scale as the losses that we have suffered during the last five days."

SIX GOLDEN MONTHS HAVE BEEN WASTED

Senator Lodge in Senate Delivers a Denunciation of War Office Delays.

Washington, March 26.—Stirred by the news of the great German offensive the senate spent today's debate almost entirely on subjects connected with the war, and heard Senator Lodge of Massachusetts deliver a denunciation of the delays which have prevented greater forces from the United States being placed beside those of the allies in the critical hour. Lodge declared that we have no fighting planes in France. "We have not a fighting plane," he continued. "Our front is undefended in the air. We've no guns in France except a few old cast guns. That's the hard fact."

"Six months have been wasted while we were trying to improve the French 75 millimetre gun, the best in the world. And now we have no guns and have gone back to the French plan—six golden months wasted."

"We have turned out only two men led to be sent to France were thirty-six ships."

Argyle House Staff Served In Field, Suffering Wounds

London, March 26.—Regarding the letter which appears in recent Canadian papers stating that the Argyle House staff had been sent to the front, the Canadian headquarters in London, the Canadian Press learns that the Argyle House staff comprises 76 officers, 200 other ranks, of whom 55 are officers; 128 others have seen service in the field, the majority having returned to England thru wounds. Sixty-four men of the remainder are unfit for general service, but when fit will be replaced by those from overseas casualties.

Lieut. Quinney's assertion that overseas service of some of the officers at Argyle House was limited to instructional or temporary duty in the field is incorrect, every officer having been actually absorbed into the establishment of units serving overseas.

CANADIANS JOIN 'R. F. C.

London, March 26.—Canadians recently gazetted for duty with the Royal Flying Corps include: Lieuts. C. A. Pelletier, Engineers; G. A. Barry, Quebec Regt.; H. R. Kincaid, S. H. Kerr, A. B. D.M. Jarvis and H. R. Herbert, Eastern Ontario Regt.; F. L. Barclay, L. G. Martin and C. B. Green, Central Ontario Regt.; C. S. Hall, Western Ontario, L. V. Southwell, Sask. Regt.; B. P. Cockshott, British Columbia Regt.

FRENCH GUNS RETARD THRUST OF GERMANY

Allies Evacuate Noyon, But Hold Firmly to Left Bank of Oise.

Paris, March 26.—The French official statement of today follows: "The battle continues with violence. During last evening and in the night the enemy multiplied his attacks on the whole front between Noyon and Chaubais. The French artillery, well established in the region of Noyon and supported effectively by our infantry, is retarding the German thrust. Frequent counter-attacks have been made and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy."

"Noyon was evacuated during the night in perfect order. The French are holding the left bank of the Oise firmly."

ENEMY MADE PAY FOR EVERY YARD

British Line Exacts Heavy Toll From German Army.

London, March 26.—Extracting the heaviest toll for every foot of ground, British line continues to withdraw slowly before the pressure of the German masses, Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters wires.

Over a large part of the battle zone the retirement is being made voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front. Prisoners say the advance of the Germans is behind their schedule. Yesterday was the supreme day for the British gunners, says one correspondent. Attacking from north of Epeuvillers to the point of British contact with the French, the Germans were held up nearly everywhere by the ceaseless intensity of the British artillery fire.

Masses of enemy troops, which, coming forward in waves, again and again attempted to reach their objectives met with the same fate as the old guard at Waterloo. In only one sector, near Sapignies, did they succeed in bending back the British front. It was to conform to the British front that the British line fell back during the night, straightening the line.

GERMANS CLAIM FRESH SUCCESS

Enemy Asserts Defeat of Men From Italy.

Berlin, via London, March 26.—The text of the German day statement reads: "In continuation of the great battle in France, our troops yesterday achieved fresh successes. English divisions, brought up from Flanders and Italy, and French divisions, threw themselves against our troops in desperate attacks. They were defeated."

"The armies of Gen. von Below and Gen. von Marwitz have thus achieved a hot and fluctuating battle, and in their advance against Achiet-le-Grand captured the Villages of Bihucourt, Bievillers and Grevelles. They have also captured Iries and Miraumont and have crossed the Ancre River."

"British troops, freshly brought forward, attacked violently on a wide front from the direction of Albert. The enemy was driven back after a bitter struggle."

"We have crossed the Bapaume-Albert road near Courcolette and Pozieres. To the south of Peronne Gen. von Hofacker has forced a passage across the Somme and has advanced to the height of Maisonnelle, which was so hotly contested in the Somme battle of 1916, as well as the Villages of Barleux and Barleux. Strong enemy counter-attacks were themselves out before our lines."

"The army of Gen. von Hutier, after hard fighting, drove the enemy back near Marhelepot and Hattencourt across the Peronne-Roye railway. The tenaciously defended Etallon was wrested from the French and British."

Germany Even Surprised By Bombardment of Paris

London, March 26.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen says:

"The bombardment of Paris by a long-range gun was as great a surprise to Germany as to other parts of the world. The Berlin Vorwaerts says that had the statement not been officially confirmed it would have been considered an unusually heavy war lie."

The Berlin Lokal Anzeiger, which, like the other German newspapers, is unable to give any information about the construction of the gun, says the cannon must be provided with very long bores, as the shells travel 1 1/2 kilometres per second.

Bi-nesia Stops Stomach Trouble Or Money Back

INSTANT RELIEF GUARANTEED

Recently a writer on the treatment of stomach trouble, who has claimed that practically all stomach trouble is due to acidity, decided to put his theory to the test. He suffered from acidity and was told to take a teaspoonful of pure Bi-nesia or 2 or 3 of the 5-grain tablets in a little water immediately after each meal or when pain was felt. The test completely vindicated his theory. He was relieved of his trouble and he has concluded that the trouble had been due to stomach acidity, which is well known, is instantly neutralized by Bi-nesia. He is making this test, the well-known manufacturer of Bi-nesia has specialized in preparing pure Bi-nesia exclusively for stomach use and has arranged to place in every package of genuine Bi-nesia, either tablet or powder form, a binding guarantee contract of satisfaction. Bi-nesia is a positive of their belief that nearly every so-called dyspepsia is really suffering from acidity, and their confidence that genuine Bi-nesia will instantly neutralize stomach acid, stop food fermentation and thus, relieve the trouble caused thereby.

GERMAN WARSHIPS PUT TO FLIGHT

British Destroyer Cut One of German War Vessels in Half.

WAS A GRIM FIGHT

Enemy Craft, Eighteen in All Fled From Coast of Dunkirk.

London, March 26.—In the engagement between allied and enemy destroyer squadrons off Dunkirk last Thursday the British destroyer Botha cut a German warship in half and took a leading part in the fight, although her main steam pipe had been severed by a stray shell.

Early last Thursday morning the British destroyers Botha and Morris and the French destroyers Capitaine Mehl, Magon and Bouclier were patrolling the eastern waters of the English Channel when they heard enemy ships bombarding the coast of Dunkirk. They first star shells which had the effect of silencing the bombardment and scattering the enemy.

The destroyers started in pursuit of the Germans in a northwesterly direction, and discovered eventually that the enemy ships were making for their base. A grim little fight ensued, according to the stories of eyewitnesses.

None of the German torpedoes found a mark, but the Morris, emerging from an enemy smoke screen, cut off a German destroyer of a large type and torpedoed her at a range of 500 yards. There was an explosion in the enemy vessel and she sank immediately.

Meanwhile, the Botha had been crippled and she began to lose her way. The crew determined to do what damage they could and fired both torpedoes at the two leading enemy boats. Then, her helm having been put hard over, the Botha, with the aid of the Morris, amidships, cutting the enemy vessel in half.

Swinging around, the Botha attempted to repeat the ramming manoeuvre on the next German steamer. The enemy craft, however, eluded the effort of the British destroyer, but only to fall a victim to French destroyers. Abaze, the German boat lay disabled while the British destroyers, with their torpedoes and gunfire.

Pelted With Bombs. The Morris lost the rest of the quarry in the mist and the lame Botha in tow, while the French destroyers circled around, picking up prisoners. From the statement of German sources it appears that eighteen German craft participated in the raid, and when they fled from the French coast, they were attacked by a British naval air squadron which pelted them with bombs and scattered them in disorder in all directions.

Two German destroyers and two German torpedo boats were sunk in the action off Dunkirk, according to an announcement made by the British admiralty on March 25. It was stated that the British vessels were sunk, and that the damaged British destroyer had reached port.

THOUSANDS FLEE BEFORE GERMANS

Paris Entertains Many Hundreds—Mostly Women and Children.

Paris, March 26.—Thousands of refugees in towns and villages behind the Villages of Barleux and Barleux, automobile transport vehicles have been working virtually all night and day in the period since the German offensive began, bringing out the people, and the transportation department here has ordered all its available cars to the British front. Two thousand refugees have already been brought to Paris by the Red Cross and peace food. This estimate is confirmed by the reiterated assurances of the enemy communiques recently that peace is near at hand. British opinion is confident that the allied reserve power is rallying to the determination to endure, if necessary, the most protracted conflict.

DECISIVE BATTLE ONLY BEGINNING

Munich Paper Says First Violent Blow Struck at Bitterest Enemy.

Zurich, Switzerland, March 26.—The Munich, Bavaria, Neueste Nachrichten of last Sunday, commenting on the offensive on the western battlefield, says:

"The first violent blow in a vast and decisive battle has been struck against our bitterest and most dangerous foe on French soil. England has suffered a defeat, the magnitude of which cannot be disregarded."

BOMBING RAIDS IN BALKANS.

Paris, March 26.—An official report says: "Enemy aircraft have been active in the region of Vetrinik, Dobropolye and west of Monastir. French aviators successfully bombed enemy encampments in the Sermen Valley, north-west of Glevghel."

CANADIANS IN HOSPITAL.

London, March 26.—The following reports are received of Canadian personnel in German hospitals: Capt. K. B. MacLaren, Ontario, gassed; Lt. J. M. Dunn, Ontario, gassed; Lt. R. L. St. Amand, Ontario, gassed; Lt. A. Le Touquet, Lt. C. A. Vickery, Ontario, gassed (severe); J. S. Foley, Quebec, back (slight).

BRITISH TO MAKE STAND ON ROYE-ALBERT LINE

Fighting Died Down During Night—Heavy Enemy Forces Engaged.

London, March 26.—The war office reports:

"The fighting died down during the night. Our troops established themselves on new positions east of Roye and Albert."

"Not far from the Somme continuation of the fighting is expected, but it has not yet developed. Attacks are reported to be developing this morning south of the Somme against our troops and those of the French in the neighborhood of Roye and Chaubais."

"The enemy's losses continue to be severe. He has been obliged to reinforce his battlefront from all parts of the western theatre. Over 70 hostile divisions, about 840,000 men, are known to have been engaged in the battle."

BRITISH SUPPRESS GERMAN AGENTS

Those Caught Spreading Alarm Meet Summary Treatment by Captors.

London, March 26.—German agents are spreading alarmist reports among the civil population around the battle zone in northern France, according to a despatch from the Reuters correspondent at British headquarters dated Monday. These persons are being caught with summary when caught. Concerning the fighting the correspondent says:

"The spirit and determination of the British troops is excellent. The enemy losses have been enormous. The situation in many places remains very confused, which is natural in fighting that has assumed more of the character of a war movement than at any time since the days of the Marne."

The tenacity of the British resistance, the prisoners say, exceeded anything the Germans deemed possible. The German troops, however, the enemy is able to replenish his forward line with fresh units.

Swinging around, the Botha attempted to repeat the ramming manoeuvre on the next German steamer. The enemy craft, however, eluded the effort of the British destroyer, but only to fall a victim to French destroyers. Abaze, the German boat lay disabled while the British destroyers, with their torpedoes and gunfire.

GERMANY DRIVEN INTO OFFENSIVE

War Lords Fear Mob—Britain to Support Necessary Measures.

London, March 26.—As the evidence develops that the Germans are unlikely to gain a decision on the face of the matter, the British public opinion, which the anxious, has never been unduly alarmed, is now bracing itself into a strong determination to acquiesce in whatever measures that are necessary to meet an admittedly critical situation. All attention has been silenced.

There was a flicker of labor restlessness in Manchester recently when unofficial representatives of the engineers threatened to strike against the man-power proposals, but this was promptly extinguished by the popular indignation wherein even the pacifists joined and the meetings of the district branches of amalgamated engineers yesterday repudiated the Manchester decision wherein the executive had no part.

That the enemy's offensive has been a move to the British front is corroborated in an article written by a prominent Londoner, Ernest Pyke, who was released from Ruhlben after three and a half years. He frequently visited Berlin as a camp kitchen inspector.

Pyke says that the present desperate move, that is undoubtedly dictated by the fear of the mob, as the German people are suffering from unappealable privations and are in a state of despair. This estimate is confirmed by the reiterated assurances of the enemy communiques recently that peace is near at hand. British opinion is confident that the allied reserve power is rallying to the determination to endure, if necessary, the most protracted conflict.

NOT TO BE MISLED BY GERMAN ACCOUNTS

Newspapers in Neutral Countries Remember German Communism at Time of Verdun Assault.

Washington, March 26.—Newspapers in the European neutral countries are no tallowing themselves to be misled by German accounts of the battle on the western front, according to official despatches today from France.

The German communiques at the time of the Verdun assault are recalled the despatch says, and Swiss papers are quoted as pointing out that the British line has not been broken, and the number of prisoners taken by the Germans is not surprising in any action of such magnitude.

ALLIES TO BEGIN COUNTER MOVES

Enemy Still Enjoys Advantage in Offensive—Reserves to Intervene.

London, March 26.—A despatch from French headquarters today says that the news should be read with entire calm and unshaken confidence, and that although our front was compelled to recoil under the hammer blows of Von Hindenburg—inevitably a move that was fully foreseen by the allied command and counter-measures will take effect at the right moment. These first days of the battle presumably mark the high-water level of the German advance.

MONOPOLY IN ALCOHOL

Paris, March 26.—The chamber of deputies today adopted a bill giving the government a monopoly of the purchase and sale of industrial alcohol.

TERRIFIC ATTACKS BEGIN TO WEAKEN

Germans' Last Trump in World Battle to Be Over-Trimmed.

ALLIES STAND FIRM

British, in Retiring Across Desert Land, Inflict Enormous Losses.

French Front in France, March 26.—Entire confidence reigns that the Germans' last trump in the world battle will be over-trimmed when the proper moment comes. The allied military authorities were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check the irruption into the allied positions.

As always, the attackers possessed the advantage of knowing exactly where they would launch their onslaught, while the defenders were compelled to await development of the battle before meeting the onrush with counter-measures.

There is every sign in today's situation that the terrific attack in which apparently some million Germans of all arms are engaged, is being slackened. The resistance of the allies seems firmer, and the arrival on the scene of French reserves, sent up to the southern flank, brought welcome support to the British, who sustained the first powerful rush.

The German divisions which began what evidently was intended to be an irresistible forward movement were so cut up that they were replaced by fresh formations. It is these divisions which have been checked at the positions on which it was foreseen by the allied general staff that a stand would be made.

Ground Good for Retreat. The ground over which the fighting has taken place possesses slight tactical value, but it permitted the allies to retire in perfect order. It has been devastated by the German bombardment, but the ground is better than they retreated last year, and the inhabitants had not had time or means to build it up again. While retreating across what was almost desert land, the British inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, who threw away thousands of lives in an effort to overcome the resistance he encountered. As the Germans have been able to accumulate a greater force behind the front than the allies have ever been able to achieve, the British have been proportionately swifter and greater.

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BATTLE EATS UP ENEMY RESERVES

Forty Divisions Put in During First Two Days of Combat.

FIGHT AGAINST TIME

British Make Terrific Nocturnal Air Attack Against Germans in Bapaume.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 26.—The enemy is fighting desperately hard against time. On the first day his reserves were reduced to 52 divisions. At the end of the second day some 40 divisions from the reserves had been put in.

A heavy German attack yesterday advanced against the British artillery fire. The withdrawal was not due to pressure against this sector of the line.

Reports from all along the front indicate that the German loss of life yesterday was heavy. The enemy advanced against allied gunners who were firing with open sights. Last night British airmen took heavy toll from the German infantry in Bapaume.

No official figures are at hand, but from compilations made personally by the correspondent is convinced that at least 100 German airplanes have been brought down in the last five days.

The fighting yesterday continued with more or less intensity along the whole line. The Germans pushed hard in the neighborhood of Fonches, Chaubais, Estrees, Dompreux, Mericourt, Miraumont, Achiet-le-Grand, Sapignies and Ervillers. Heavy fighting occurred about Grevelles, and a desperate conflict was being fought at the vicinity of Neuf, which the Germans now hold.

The enemy also attacked strongly in the direction of Noyon, but with strenuous resistance which appeared to stem the advance. A further massing of German troops was reported at Peronne and north of Bapaume, both of which the enemy holds.

Bapaume was turned into an inferno by squadrons of British aviators. Their bombs tore to pieces whatever was left of the place. The work of the British airmen since the beginning of the battle has been one of the brightest pages. Bitter battles in the air have been fought by scores of aviators, and the service has proved fully its ability to smother the German airman at a crucial time.

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