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# BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR

THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1918.

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## BATTLE CENTRES ROUND FRENCH LINE OF NOYON-CHAULNES FORMER STRONGHOLD EVACUATED BY FRENCH LAST NIGHT ATTACKS BY TEUTONS ON ALLED FORCES SOUTH OF SOMME

### MYSTERY GUN A SURPRISE TO EXPERTS

New Departure in Ballistics  
Says Former British Ord-  
nance Chief

### GUN CAN'T LAST LONG Is Unlikely to Survive After the Firing of Hundred Rounds

By Courier Leased Wire

London, March 25.—In the "mystery gun," the name generally given to the weapon with which the Germans are bombarding Paris from a distance estimated at 75 miles, it is frankly conceded by experts the enemy has sprung one of the greatest surprises of the war.

General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan, formerly President of the Army Ordnance Committee, says of the German gun: "The projectiles must have been fired from longer and heavier guns and with a more powerful propellant than we have any knowledge of."

From Paris has come the suggestion that the extraordinary range of the gun is due to the projectile being provided with a second charge which explodes when the first stage of the flight is completed, giving it a fresh impetus. This theory is scouted by General O'Callaghan as is also the variant of it, that the projectile is fitted with a propeller enabling it to continue its journey when it is no longer driven by the projecting force from the gun.

"It would seem," says General O'Callaghan, "that a new departure in ballistics can alone account for the enormous range, which is three times that heretofore accomplished."

One expert estimates that the weight of the projectile is about 280 pounds and that it leaves the gun with a muzzle velocity of about 4,000 feet per second, the gun having an elevation of about 65 degrees "which very quickly takes the projectile into a stratum of rarified air in which resistance is greatly minimized."

The strain upon the gun, he says, must be enormous and probably it would be unable to survive more than a hundred rounds at the most, the cost of each being nearly \$1,000.

All the experts agree that at such a tremendous range even approximate accuracy is out of the question and therefore the gun is likely where a target is presented on a vast scale, like Paris.

The object aimed at, they say, is rather more moral than material, but in both respects the gun is likely to prove less effective than airplane raiders.

Shut Prisoners In.  
Paris, March 25.—The prison authorities have decided not to permit prisoners to take exercise during the bombardment. Prominent persons now in the Sante prison, however, will be allowed to promenade as usual at their own risk.

Former Premier Caillaux and Senator Charles Humbert have availed themselves of this privilege.

Two or Three Are Plenty.  
Geneva, March 25.—(By the Associated Press)—The long range guns bombarding Paris, according to a Vienna despatch received here, are of Austrian manufacture, having been made at the Skoda factory. The gun in itself is new, but its novelty comes from a new type of shell and the explosive gases used in the gun. There are said to be only two or three of the guns.

### WILL OVER-TRUMP THE TEUTON TRUMP

Allied Military Authorities  
Expected to Retreat From  
Foe Drive

By Courier Leased Wire

French Front in France, Monday, March 25.—(By the Associated Press)—Entire confidence reigns that the Germans last trump in the world's battle will be over-trumped 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 their drive at Allied positions.

It is always the attackers who 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 to-day's situation that the terrific attack in which apparently there is somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000,000 Germans of all arms engaged, is being slackened. Resistance of the Allies seems firmer and the arrival on the scene of French reserves, sent up to the southern flank, brought with it 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 driven to positions on which it was foreseen by the Allied general that a stand would be made.

"BRAVE RESISTANCE."  
Berlin, Monday, March 26.—Via London—German tanks, reinforced by captured British tanks, says a semi-official today on Sunday's fighting in the west "took a leading part in breaking the brave enemy resistance."

Tanks attached to the German divisions fighting below St. Quentin, stood the test brilliantly, the statement says, and their mobility was universally praised. All the tanks which took part in the fighting are said to have returned undamaged. It was mainly due to their intervention, the statement continues, that the tenacious resistance of the British, especially the machine guns, was broken. Troops manning concrete redoubts near Urvilliers, is reported to have been overpowered immediately by the tanks.

### ENEMY LOSSES ARE SO HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS ARE DRAWN FROM ALL PARTS OF FRONT

Fighting Died Down During Night on British Front, and Haig's Forces Established Themselves in New Positions East of Roye and Albert; Battle Renewed This Morning, When Foe Hurlled More Than Seventy Divisions into the Field.

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, March 26.—The fighting died down during the night, the war office reports, The British established themselves in new positions east of Roye and Albert.

The German losses have been so great that the enemy has been obliged to bring up reinforcements from all parts of the western front. The war office has established the fact that more than 70 divisions (in the neighborhood of 840,000 men) have been engaged. The statement follows—

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

"North of the Somme continuance 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 Chaulnes.

"The enemy's losses continue to be severe. He has been obliged to reinforce his battle front from all parts of the western theatre.

### FRENCH OFFICIAL

Paris, March 26.—The battle continues with the greatest violence and the Germans are making still greater efforts along the whole front, between Noyon and Chaulnes, the war office announces. Noyon was evacuated by the French during the night. The left bank of the Oise is being held by the French. The statement 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 Chaulnes. The French artillery is 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."

### SITUATION BETTER.

Washington, March 26.—Information received to-day by the British military attaché, Major-General James D. McLaughlin, is that the situation at the battle front decidedly improved during yesterday. The advice is based upon the report of the Germans to the east bank of the Somme between Peronne and Morschain.

### U. S. POSTS GASSED.

With the American Army in France, Monday, March 25.—(By the Associated Press)—The American positions on a certain part of the Toul front were bombarded with mustard gas shells at the rate of six a minute last night, but ineffectively. The American Artillery replied with a heavy five and demolished segments of the German front lines and other points.

### MUST FILL GAPS.

London, March 26.—To fill the gaps caused by the German advance in France the authorities have decided to place the recruiting machinery in motion again throughout the country. In order to assist the Government the miners have placed the organization of their unions at the disposal of their recruiting officers.

"We provide for all contingencies," says The Daily Mail, "it has been decided to speed up the recruiting machinery and the men already scheduled for calling up will be summoned to the colors more quickly than was intended. The Government will take firm measures where needed."

### GERMAN ALARMISTS WORKING IN FRANCE

Teuton Agents Seek to Undermine Morale of Civilians.

By Courier Leased Wire

London, March 26.—German agents are spreading alarmist reports among the civil population around the battle zone in northern France, according to a dispatch from the Reuter correspondent at British headquarters, dated Monday. The persons are being dealt with summarily when caught. Concerning the fighting, the correspondent says: "The spirit 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."

See the candle and the stove in Peely's show window. Register your guess, and you may win the stove free. See advt. on page four.

See the combination and plain colored Ladies' Shoes at Cole's Shoe Co. for Easter.

### RESISTANCE TO FOE STIFFENING

German Attack Slows Up  
Despite Use of Reserve  
Troops

By Courier Leased Wire

British resistance to the mighty German blow west of Cambrai apparently is stiffening. The Germans, despite the new masses of reserves which they are hurling into the battle line continuously are slowing up on some parts of the attacking front before the defense of Field Marshal Haig.

On the extreme north and in the centre the German progress has been appreciably slower, while around Bapaume, on the old battlefield of the Somme and east and north of Noyon the enemy had made gains, but only at the cost of a fearful toll exacted by machine guns and artillery. The fighting on these sectors continues of the most severe character.

South of Arras the line has yielded about three miles since Saturday. Immediately west of the Somme, south of Peronne, the Germans suffered heavily in forcing a crossing of the river and, seemingly have not been able to advance as fast as they did before the river was reached.

The Germans suffered heavily in the attack on the salient toward Longueval and have widened it somewhat southward in the direction of Epehy. However, unless the salient is widened still more it may prove a menace to the enemy as the British line still is holding well to the north and the south.

### BERLIN CELEBRATES

London, March 26.—Berlin was decorated Monday and church bells were ringing in celebration of the success on the western front, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen. The Catholic churches in Berlin have arranged for a special day of prayer.



SHELLS COULD CROSS ENGLISH CHANNEL  
Placed in Ostend, Belgium, which is occupied by the enemy, the new German gun which has been bombarding Paris, at a distance of 70 miles, could easily reach Dover, 61 miles away. It would fall short of London, however, by over fifty miles. It is calculated by experts that the shell would rise 18 miles in the air to reach its objective and the distance actually travelled along its parabolic course would be ninety miles.



THE ENEMY'S NEW DRIVE ON PARIS AND THE CHANNEL.  
This map indicates the line reached by the Germans in 1914, before their defeat at the battle of the Marne. They had passed through Amiens. The shaded area represents the new German gains and the line beyond on the west indicates the strongly entrenched positions the British held in February of last year. The enemy now has taken Bapaume, which was not unexpected. The French south of the Oise will have to pivot back to the short line of crosses. The map indicates the location of the two guns that have been bombarding Paris.

### HUN WARSHIP CUT IN TWO BY A DESTROYER

British Vessel Botha Played  
Big Part in Naval  
Engagement

### FIGHT OFF DUNKIRK

Destroyer Took Leading  
Part Although Main  
Stern Pipe Was Cut

By Courier Leased Wire

London, March 22.—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 shot.

Early last Thursday morning the British destroyers Botha and Morris and the French destroyers Capitaine Mehl, Macon and Foudrier were patrolling the eastern waters of the English channel when they heard enemy ships bombarding the coast of Dunkirk. They fired at once, which had the effect of stopping 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 eye-witnesses. None of the German torpedoes found a mark, but the Morris emerging from enemy's screen cut off a German destroyer of a large type and torpedoed her at a range of 1,000 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 their torpedoes at the two leading enemy boats. Then, her helm having been put hard over, the Botha rammed another boat cleanly 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 crippled Britisher, but only to fall a victim to the French destroyers. Abandoning the German boat lay disabled while the Frenchmen pounded her with torpedoes and gunfire.

The Morris lost the rest of the quarry in the mist and took the lance Botha in tow, while the French destroyers circled around, picking up prisoners. From the statements of prisoners it appears that eighteen German craft participated in the raid, and when they fled from the French coast, leaving three of their numbers behind, 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 are believed to have been sunk in the action off Dunkirk, according to an announcement made by the British Admiralty on March 21. It was said that five allied vessels were sunk and that one damaged destroyer had reached port.

### MERCHANTS CORNER

Garrett and Co., of Norfolk, Va., started a "try out" advertising campaign in three or four cities, but it was so quickly productive of increased business that the concern has extended its campaign and are planning to move their business to New York City.

The Farmer's Needs.  
It is stated that in view of the labor shortage, the Department of Labor has advised that the farmers must have self-binders, mowers, 6 h.p. gas engines, seed drills, cream separators in larger quantities than ever before. The fact that the average income of Canadian farmers last year was well over the \$3,000 mark proves that they can afford to buy machinery. If your product is designed to assist production, it is your national duty to make the fact widely known to the farmers through the press.