

ALLIES MAY STRIKE AT ENEMY'S THIN SOMME LINES

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BRITAIN'S BACK AGAINST WALL, MILLION RESERVES PAPER ARMY STATES HIGH BRITISH OFFICER

Simply Haven't Got the Men, and Must Die Unless Help Comes Soon, Col. Hunter Tells Americans.

New York, April 23.—The Tribune this morning has the following: "Great Britain has no reserve army to send to France; the 750,000 men enrolled by her since the beginning of the war have fought and died on thirty-seven fronts, and when it is said that she has her 'back against the wall,' it means that."

These statements were made by Lieut.-Col. F. Fraser Hunter, D.S.O., British provost-marshal in the United States, at the Yale Club last night, where he spoke to Toronto University men.

"We simply haven't got the men, or we wouldn't say our backs are against the wall," said Col. Hunter. "We bend but never break, but for God's sake, get there before we do."

"The much-touted army of a million British reserves is nothing but a newspaper army," Col. Hunter declared. Every available British soldier has been utilized in India, China, Somaliland, Turkey, Persia, South Africa, and in more than a score of other places in which, there being no Germans entrenched, "are just as truly battle fronts as Northern France," he pointed out.

BRITISH BETTER LINE AT ALBERT; GET PRISONERS

Successful Local Operation for Haig on the Somme Front.

London, April 23.—The British attack last night north of Albert was carried out on a front of about 1,000 yards. Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports that an advance was made to a depth of 250 yards.

London, April 23.—On the Somme front north of Albert the British last night improved their line by a successful local operation. It is announced officially, "They took 60 prisoners. On the Flanders front, in the Robecq sector, and near Wytchate, the British took prisoners."

THE FRENCH REPORT.
Paris, April 23.—Active artillery operations on the Somme front and east of Rheims continued in today's official communication.

The statement follows: "Further spirited artillery games occurred on the Somme front and east of Rheims."

"German raids between Lassigny and Noyon, northwest of Rheims, and in the Vosges, were without results. Prisoners remained in our hands."

"Everywhere else the night passed in quiet."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE BOARD OF DISTRICT IS NOW ABOLISHED

No Further Necessity for the Organization Under M. S. A.

The district leave of absence board for this district has been abolished. Headquarters officers today informed The Advertiser that its work had been completed, and that it had as a result been done away with.

In the future, leave of absence regulations will be issued in the regular order-in-council regarding exemptions, leave of absence will not be granted except in special cases hereafter.

In such cases, where the man is needed for special service, the general officer commanding the division may grant leave, without pay, on recommendation, and that it had as a result been done away with.

Headquarters officers today informed The Advertiser that its work had been completed, and that it had as a result been done away with.

BOTH LEGS CUT OFF; APPEALS FROM THE ACT

Sherbrooke, Que., April 23.—Among the cases appealed before the Military Service Tribunal under the military service act, were those of three cripples, whom the judges placed in Category "B." One of the cripples was wheeled into court, both of his legs being cut off at the hip.

THREE SENT TO TRIAL CHARGED WITH SLAYING WINNIPEG CONSTABLE

Winnipeg, Man., April 23.—Frank Edlivan, Philip Johnson and John Edlivan were committed for trial for the murder of Constable B. W. Snowden by Magistrate MacDonald yesterday afternoon, following a preliminary hearing lasting nearly four hours. They were also committed on a burglary charge.

U. S. WINTER OAT CROPS.

Washington, April 23.—The winter-sown oats acreage this year is 2,372,000 acres, compared with 2,424,000 acres last year, the department of agriculture announced today in preliminary figures. Winter-sown oats represented about 6 per cent of the total United States oats acreage in 1917.

Uruguay, Argentina Soon To Declare War Against the Germans

London, April 23.—Uruguay and Argentina are expected to declare war against Germany at an early date, according to Berlin advices forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam. The German newspapers have been notified to prepare the public for this development, he adds.

Throughout the British Empire there has sounded war's alarms. And true to past traditions her brave sons have sprung to arms; They have left their homes and loved ones, plunging into war's dark night, To inscribe on freedom's banner, "Britannia fights for the right." They have faced the Kaiser's legions with their storm of molten lead, Depending on the home town that their loved ones will be fed. Now, comrades of the home town, your duty must be done, Let the hand that's in the pocket help the hand that holds the gun.

We cheered them to the echo as they bravely marched away, And the band played "Rule Britannia"; we were proud of them that day. They have done their duty nobly, word has reached us from the front, That in the stress of battle they have nobly borne the brunt. Let us send to them this message: "We still care for loved ones here." And the Kaiser's desert army will meet men who know no fear. And they'll send back clean up this message, "We'll sure clean up on the Hun," If the hand that's in the pocket helps the hand that holds the gun.

—FRED YOUNG, 18th Canadians.

IT'LL REACH HIM ALL RIGHT



THIRD PRUSSIAN BLOW PLANNED, BUT GEN. FOCH MAY STRIKE FIRST; FOE CAN BE HELD, SAY Y'S SIMONDS

By Frank H. Simonds
Author of "The World War," "They Shall Not Pass," etc.
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The second German blow has been parried. On the north the Germans find themselves in quite as awkward a salient as they were in before Amiens, when they broke out of the Somme region. If they have dealt with the British positions about Arras. Hence nothing is more probable than that we shall see in the next few days a third German blow, directed this time at Arras, and delivered somewhere between Amiens and Arras.

Foch May Strike.
It remains possible that Foch will anticipate this blow by an offensive. His decision must rest upon the condition of his own and the German reserves. Of the German condition we know something of the numbers and strength of the allied reserves next to nothing. There are on the western front about 200 German divisions. Of these 125 had been located on last Wednesday, and not more than four have been put in since. This would leave the Germans 75 fresh divisions, but these 75 have been holding the line along the sectors not affected by the present fighting.

Enemy Has Used Best.
Conceptually the German may have transferred certain of the divisions held by him to the Somme fighting to quiet sectors, but this process could not be applied indefinitely, and it is at least certain that the 75 divisions which have not yet appeared on the operative front are by no means comparable in value to the 130 divisions which have been employed. In a word, the German has used his best, he has not used all of it or most of it up, but he cannot in many months organize another such blow as fell upon the 5th British Army a month ago.

Is Near Exhaustion.
Of the 130 divisions which the German has used in the battle, so far about 100 have not appeared on the north and west front, in large part be still back of the front between Arras and the Oise. Out of these divisions, and such divisions as he has drawn from quiet sectors, the German must develop his new thrust, and it is patent to all military men that, if he spends this great remaining force in one more colossal blow, his power for the offensive for a long time will be exhausted.

Foch's Problem.
The question of a counter-attack by Foch depends entirely upon the comparative strength of allied and German reserves. His problem is to attack before the Germans have had time to fortify their new front too strongly, but not until their reserves have been so nearly exhausted that they would be unable to follow an allied offensive by still another attack, when allied reserves had been exhausted in an indecisive assault.

THE WEATHER
LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 63; lowest, 36.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 58; lowest, 41.

TOMORROW—COOLER.
Toronto, April 23.
Forecast.
Fresh west and northwest winds, fair; cooler tonight and Wednesday.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Toronto	58	44	Clear
Calgary	54	42	Clear
Winnipeg	52	34	Clear
Port Arthur	40	40	Clear
Parry Sound	48	38	Clear
Port Stanley	50	42	Cloudy
Buffalo	44	38	Cloudy
Toronto	58	44	Cloudy
Kingston	40	36	Cloudy
Ottawa	48	40	Fair
Montreal	46	38	Fair
Quebec	50	38	Cloudy
Father Point	44	40	Fair

The barometer continues low over Northern Ontario and Quebec, but is rising over the great lakes in advance of a high area now centered north of Manitoba. The weather is fair throughout the Dominion.

CANVASSERS HOPE TO GET \$200,000 IN THE DRIVE TODAY

Optimism Prevails Among the Campaigners, Who Report Successful First Day.

BIG TANK ROLLING ON

Started Out With Impetus of \$150,000 Secured in Preliminary Canvass.

The big tank rolls on in London's grand patriotic drive, which formally opened at 9 o'clock this morning, to capture \$200,000 in three days for eleven objects, the Canadian, British, Italian Red Cross, the Patriotic Fund, the Secours National, Belgian and Serbian and Jewish Relief, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Y. M. C. A. Overseas and Salvation Army funds.

And the aim of all these objects backed by organizations is to speed up the winning of the war, to stand behind the men who are gallantly putting their all into the fight and to keep faith with those who have died on Flanders fields in order that the heroes of the Hun may never pass.

\$150,000 as Started.
At zero this morning, 9 o'clock, everything was in readiness at the headquarters, 150 Dundas street, for the beginning of the big push. Already advanced detachments of the army of canvassers had been over "No Man's Land" with the tank on a reconnoitering expedition, capturing the first objective, \$150,000. It was with good heart that the campaigners went over the top, inspired by the success achieved, cheered by the sunshine of the bright spring day, filled with indomitable faith in the patriots and the spirit of their fellow citizens, which never fails in such a crisis.

Expect \$200,000 Tonight.
When the first big busy day ends and reports are made by team captains over the dinner table at the Tecumseh House this evening, it is fully expected that the story will be told that as a result of "steaming up" today, the tank has covered the intervening ground and triumphantly crossed the \$200,000 trench. There are hopes, even, that it will be well on the way towards the next objective, \$350,000.

In any case, the public is keeping an interested eye on the tank and trenches in front of the Bank of Commerce Building, the device which in a still more appropriate manner tells the story of progress at a glance as it did the bubbling up thermometer a year ago.

The women's teams have been meeting with good success in canvassing the residential districts. Owing to the fact that the canvassers are busy, women who are giving their spare time to the drive during the campaign, it is especially requested that those intending to give have their subscriptions ready.

Team 15, the last women's team organized, captained by Mrs. Gordon Wright, is as strong numerically as any, and this morning everyone who promised work on duty in good time. Some eight hundred calls, representing calls have been distributed to this team.

Rally Dinner at 6:30.
Owing to the limited space in the Tecumseh dining-room and the fact that accommodation will only be afforded for the men's teams at the rally dinner at 6:30 o'clock, the following are invited to the dinner: Sir George Gibbons, honorary chairman of the campaign committee; A. E. Silverwood, chairman, and Capt. A. Graham, camp captain. Pte. Geddes is to be the singer.

The local war speakers' committee is doing its big bit in providing speakers for non-party meetings. Today addresses were delivered at the G. T. R. shops, Beattie Bros', two plants, the London Gas Works, and the shops of P. B. Bartlett, Pte. Fred Young, Jared Vining and Dr. E. C. Braithwaite.

Great Enthusiasm.
The organization meeting at the Y. M. C. A. building last evening was an enthusiastic gathering, in which everyone expressed the keenest desire to extend the drive to its maximum.

The big three days' "drive" for joint patriotic funds will start from the headquarters building, Dundas street, 9 o'clock this morning.

Sir George Gibbons, honorary chairman, was the first speaker at the meeting last night. In a powerful appeal to the workers present he urged each to go forth with a determination to get subscriptions so that the objective would be more than realized.

"This week is perhaps the most important period in the history of the war," said Sir George.

"London has got the habit of giving to patriotic causes, London has got the heart. London has done her duty before and will do it again."

A. E. Silverwood, chairman, John J. Foot, chairman of the canvass committee, Arthur White, and A. D. McLean, honorary treasurer, explained to the workers present what would be required of them.

The method of canvass was outlined in detail and everyone present familiarized with the plans adopted and to be followed in the three days' campaign.

Will Give Buttons.
Buttons will be furnished to all canvassers, who will give one to each person who subscribes \$15 and over. The button is of white background, red outside and maple leaf in centre.

The words "Patriotic Fund Supporters" are shown around the rim of the button.

On Thursday evening at the Tecumseh House Rev. John MacNeill of the United Methodist Church will address the workers following a dinner there.

Pte. Fred Young, the 15th Battalion, recited his poem, "You Never Know You're Beaten Till Your Shoulders Touch the Mat." The poem was received with rounds of applause.

E. B. SMITH REAPPOINTED.
London, April 23.—The Ontario Liquor Board has reappointed E. B. Smith of London to be liquor vendor for the province.

CAMPAIGN NOTES

ALREADY SUBSCRIBED.
McClary Manufacturing Com-
pany \$7,500
Robinson, Little & Co. \$7,500
Col. T. S. Hobbs \$7,500
Hurst and Sons \$7,500
Canadian Trust Co. \$6,250
E. Leonard & Sons \$6,000
S. J. Ingman \$5,000
McMahon & Granger \$4,000
London Rolling Mills \$4,000
Empire Manufacturing Co. \$3,500
R. C. Struthers & Co. \$3,500
Sir Adam Beck \$3,000
Geo. White Sons Manufacturing Com-
pany \$3,000
James Wright & Co. \$3,000
Ontario Loan and Debenture Co. \$3,000
McCormick Manufacturing Com-
pany \$2,000
D. S. Perrin & Co. \$2,500
R. H. Young & Co. \$2,500
W. H. Heard \$2,500
Verschoyle Cronyn \$2,400

A London mother today had just received word that her son had been killed at the front when the canvasser called. She was a real soldier's mother. She would carry on "for the sake of other mothers" for the sake of her own beloved son as well as for her own beloved son who had fallen. She gave her subscription.

Inadvertently, the I. O. D. E. war work was left out in the list of causes covered in the patriotic drive in The Advertiser's advertisement this morning. The canvassers heard about it up and down the streets, all over the town. One man gratefully declared he would not subscribe to this splendid organization was not included. All the canvassers required to do to correct the impression was to draw attention to the subscription card.

A splendid address on patriotism and action was given by Pte. Fred Young at McClary's foundry today during the noon hour. The men were urged to give up their spare time to the patriotic fund. The speaker explained at some length the working of the drive, and the splendid work that it is doing. J. M. Gunn introduced Pte. Young.

The men are responding well to the call for funds. The amount which will be found by the employees is not known yet, but it is certain to be quite a substantial sum.

A patriotic meeting was held at the Grand Central Hotel at noon today in connection with the canvass that is being carried out in the city. P. H. Bartlett, chairman of the meeting, explained the working of the drive, and the splendid work that it is doing. J. M. Gunn introduced Pte. Young.

CHANNELS TO PIRATE BASES BLOCKADED BY BRITISH RAID

Naval Forces Sink Five Old Cruisers To Bottle Up Subs.

London, April 23.—British naval forces today raided the German submarine bases of Ostend and Zeebrugge, the admiralty announces. Five old cruisers which had been filled with concrete for use in blocking the channels were run aground, blown up and abandoned by their crews.

The admiralty reports that, according to incomplete information thus far received, the raid met with a reasonable measure of success.

The ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge, on the Belgian coast, are the principal bases for the operations of the submarines in their campaign against shipping in the North Sea and English Channel. They are of great importance to the Germans for this purpose, and have been recognized by the Allies that to deprive the enemy of them would be one of the most effective means of dealing with the submarine menace.

Defences Are Strong.
An attack on these ports by the British fleet has been urged, but the British naval authorities are rightly regarded the land defences are too strong to make this practicable. Various measures have been adopted to destroy German submarines on entering or leaving these ports. Field Marshal Haig's offensive in Flanders last summer was generally believed to have been successful in cutting off the landing of the German northern flank, so as to deprive the enemy of these two points.

DAWN TO DUSK FOE HARRIED BY CANUCKS
Germans Gassed, Pounded. Raided for Twelve Hours.

[By W. A. Willison, Canadian Press Correspondent.]
Canadian Army Headquarters, April 23.—Raided in our raids, which were all supported by our artillery, our men were unable to locate the enemy. In others sharp fighting developed, particularly in one case where protracted hand-to-hand fighting took place. So close was the struggle that we were unable to take many prisoners.

With fair weather succeeding the cold, dark days of last week, our siren were busy. With reckless disregard for the regular machine gun or rifle bullet barrage, a patrol of four of our machines flew up and down the enemy trenches for no less than fifteen minutes at an altitude of from 50 to 100 yards, emptying machine gun drums into the enemy front line. Like work was carried out in other parts of the line, and at night one of our planes bombed the hostile firing trenches.

NORTH IRELAND FLOUTS ORDER OF IRISH LABOR TO STOP WORK FOR DAY
London, April 23.—The order of the Irish labor convention for a day's cessation of work as a protest against conscription was absolutely ignored in Belfast and the north of Ireland, says a Central News dispatch from Belfast today. Work went on as usual, the message reports, and there was no outward manifestation to make the day different from any other working day.

Mutt and Jeff in France
The Mutt and Jeff cartoon printed today on the sporting page in Capt. Bud Fisher's cartooners that he is now in France, having sailed early this month.

Capt. Fisher will send drawings from the front by the first available steamer, and these will be published as quickly as possible after receipt.

Owing to uncertainty of transatlantic mail service at present The Advertiser is unable to give a definite date as to when the first pictures will be ready, but we are confident the lapse in the service will be of short duration.

Capt. Fisher recently joined the Canadian forces at Montreal, and is in France attached to the Canadian army.

LET YOUR DOLLARS BE THE "GAS" TO DRIVE THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS' TANK TO ITS LAST TRENCH