

BRITISH RE-TAKE HAMEL AND 1,500 PRISONERS IN SURPRISE ATTACK

Australians Assisted by Tanks Advanced a Mile and a Half on 4-Mile Front With Light Casualties.

A despatch from the British Army in France, says:—Complete success crowned the splendid surprise attack made by the Australians at dawn on Thursday against the Germans between Villers-Bretonneux and the Somme.

The enemy was taken entirely unaware and the big-framed fighters from Australia stormed their way through the bewildered grey coats with little opposition—a veritable human tornado which left a wake of death behind it.

Hamel village was rushed and taken in short order. Vaire and Hamel Woods, with their nests of crackling machine guns, were passed through as though the Australians were doing a practice charge for their commander, and a line of enemy trenches east of these strongholds was cleaned out and annexed.

About 1,500 prisoners were in the British cages this afternoon, while on the battlefield great numbers of the

German Emperor's men lay silent under the brilliant sunshine which could bring them no cheer.

It took the assaulting forces about an hour and a half to complete their work, and at the end of that time they had, with exceedingly light casualties, wrested from the enemy a strip of territory four miles wide and averaging a mile and a half deep. By this operation they eliminated a salient in the British line and gained valuable high ground.

The Australians went over the top behind a large number of tanks, which were to pilot the way. Two minutes before that hour the British artillery all along the sector dropped a tremendous barrage on the German defences from guns of all calibres. This was the first warning the enemy had of impending trouble. Not a word concerning the attack had penetrated to the other side. Even the great uncounted tanks had been got into position without the enemy being aware of their presence.

FURTHER GAINS ON THE PIAVE

Airmen Drop Blazing Oil on 12 Austrian Bridges.

A despatch from Italian Army Headquarters says:—The fighting that is in progress along the lower reaches of the Piave is as severe as was that of last week in this region, where mud, sand and water are everywhere under foot and clumps of tall-growing grasses are frequent. To add to the difficulties, rain and wind storms occasionally sweep over the area.

At four points the Italians attacked the Austrian position in this region, along a frontage of eight miles. In this comparatively small stretch no less than 12 temporary bridges thrown across by the Austrians were destroyed by airplanes dropping small barrels of burning oil upon them. The Italian infantry are frequently seen a short distance away, calmly waiting while the bridges are attacked from the air, the troops then being thrown against the remaining Austrians.

About the most violent resistance displayed by any of the enemy troops is that of the Bosnians and Herzegovinians on this front, who are still wearing their picturesque turbans. As the Italians advance they are finding the dead among these already stripped by their comrades. There are other Austrians, however, who as soon as they are taken prisoner, find themselves safe within the Italian lines, cry, "Down with Austria!"

AUSTRALIANS CONTINUE ADVANCE

Smash the Enemy Back Some 400 Yards.

With the British Army in France, July 7.—No further attempt by the Germans to retake the ground wrested from them Thursday by the combined Australian-American attack has been reported to-day. Not satisfied with the positions acquired from the enemy in the initial attack, the Australians Friday night again drove forward, just south of Vaire Woods, and jammed the Boche back some 400 yards more along a front of 2,000 yards.

The operation was entirely successful and has made the new line much stronger.

\$3,000,000 SUBSIDY TO FLAX-GROWERS

A despatch from London says:—The House of Commons has passed the second reading of the bill providing for a Government subsidy of \$600,000 to promote flax growing in Ireland, to replace the lost Belgian and Russian crops and to provide material for the army, navy and air forces.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA ASSASSINATED BY TWO UNKNOWN MEN

General Count von Mirbach Killed by Bomb in His Moscow Office—Beginning of Russia's Vengeance Against German Tyranny.

Paris, July 7.—General Count von Mirbach, German Ambassador to Russia, was assassinated on Saturday at Moscow, according to a despatch received here.

Obtaining admittance under false pretences, two unknown men entered the private office of Count von Mirbach this morning. A short discussion ensued. Then revolver shots were heard, followed by explosions of hand grenades.

The Ambassador died almost instantaneously. The assassins escaped and have not yet been arrested. The whole quarter in Moscow where the German Embassy is situated was immediately surrounded by troops at

U.S. LAUNCHED 52 VESSELS JULY 4

A despatch from New York says:—The United States launched on Thursday a greater tonnage in ships than she has lost during the whole progress of the European war, Secretary of the Navy Daniels said in an address at the Fourth of July celebration of the Tammany Society.

More than 400,000 dead-weight tons, he said, are going into the water from American shipyards as a part of the Independence Day celebration, while the total American tonnage destroyed by submarines is estimated at 352,223 tons, including 67,815 tons sunk before the United States entered the war.

"We have launched today," Mr. Daniels continued, "more than the Germans sank of the ships of all nations in the last month for which we have official figures. The recent enemy submarine activities off our coast resulted in the loss of 35,411 gross tons of American shipping. During the same time, 130,000 dead-weight tons of shipping were built."

SHIP PRODUCTION WAS HIGH IN JUNE

A despatch from London says:—The British Admiralty announced that during the month of June 134,159 gross tons of merchant shipping was completed in the United Kingdom yards and entered for service.

The record of British shipyards for June fell below that of May, when a total of 197,274 gross tons was entered for service. That was the highest figure for any month during the last year. In April the shipping completed totalled 111,533, and in March 161,674 gross tons.

GOOD HARVEST IN MANITOBA EXPECTED

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—Prosperity again stands at Manitoba's door. A rich and plentiful harvest is forecast in the first official report issued by the Manitoba Agricultural Department.

The report indicates clearly that the crop is about six days ahead of its normal schedule in 70 per cent. of the places reporting. Of the remainder, about 20 per cent. claim normal conditions prevalent, and the other 10 per cent. show a tendency to backwardness.

AERIAL FORCES CO-OPERATED IN BATTLE SOUTH OF SOMME

A despatch from London says:—British aerial forces co-operated with land forces in Thursday's attack against the Germans south of the Somme, according to an official statement on aviation operations issued Friday night. Eleven German airplanes were destroyed and ten driven down out of control as a result of combats. Four British machines are missing.



The Sand-shoes Used by Our Soldiers in Palestine When Negotiating the Sand of the Desert.

The soldier in the picture took care that the footgear should be a prominent feature in the landscape. These sand-shoes are an excellent invention, and shod with them the men can travel without difficulty over the desert sand. Without them the unaccustomed and treacherous surface is apt to prove full of pitfalls.

5000 GERMAN PRISONERS CAPTURED ON WEST FRONT IN WEEK

British Downed 173 Hostile Airplanes in Same Period—Much Damage Done by Air Raids on Enemy Territory.

A despatch from London says:—During the last week the Entente allies on the western front have taken more than 5,000 prisoners. A series of minor operations also resulted in their gaining possession of several important strategic points, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and obtaining valuable information as to his plans for the immediate future.

Another satisfactory feature of the last week's operations was the work of the allies in the air. Great damage was done by the aviators to German communications and concentrations of men and material behind the lines. The superiority of the Entente air fighters is shown by the fact that during the last week, on the last day alone, 173 German airplanes were downed while only 25 British machines are missing.

The text of the official report says:—"On the British western front since last weekly summary was issued, 122 German machines were downed and 73 driven down out of control, against 22 British machines reported as missing. During the same period 14 separate towns were raided and bombed. The airdrome at Boulay was raided six times; the railway triangle at Metz-Sailly, four; Mannheim, four; Saarbrücken and Thionville, three; Treves and Frescati, twice, and seven other towns once each, including Kehlruhe, where a large explosion was caused in a canal works."

"Naval airmen in the course of the week vigorously bombed docks, submarine bases and naval works in the neighborhood of Zeebrugge, Ostend and Bruges."

BERLIN ORDERED NURSES MURDERED

"Sink Without a Trace" was the Policy Acted Upon.

A despatch from London says:—Reuter's Limited is authoritatively informed that the outrage on the Llandovery Castle, which is the fourth hospital ship torpedoed this year, was deliberate and premeditated, following upon orders given by the supreme command by the supreme German authority, which alleged the presence of eight flying officers. The allegation is foundationless, and could easily have been tested by the right of search. There is no doubt that the submarine endeavored to slaughter all witnesses of the crime, according to Count Luxburg's phrase, "Spurlos verschwinden."

It is clear the German high command has set itself a plan to destroy hospital ships, as far as possible. The former Hamburg-American liner President Lincoln was sunk last May 31, and the Antilles, formerly a Morgan liner, was sent down last October 17.

GERMANS FURTHER SQUEEZE BELGIUM

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—The war contribution which Belgium has to pay to Germany, says Les Nouvelles, has been raised from 50,000,000 francs to 60,000,000 francs monthly. This is equivalent to 750 francs per head. The Germans have convoked the provincial councils to discuss the method of payment by the Belgians.

SULTAN OF TURKEY HAS PASSED AWAY

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—Mohammed V., Sultan of Turkey, died at 7 o'clock on Wednesday night, says a Constantinople despatch received here by way of Vienna.

U.S. TRANSPORT SUNK--6 LOST

Former German Liner Torpedoed on Homeward Trip.

A despatch from Washington says:—The American transport Covington, homeward bound after landing several thousand soldiers in France, was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone last Monday night. Six members of the crew are missing, but all the other men, with the ship's officers, have been landed at a French port. No army personnel or passengers were aboard.

The Covington is the second of the great German liners seized at the break of the war to be sent down by Germany's sea wolves, and is the third American transport to be destroyed. All were homeward bound. The former Hamburg-American liner President Lincoln was sunk last May 31, and the Antilles, formerly a Morgan liner, was sent down last October 17.

WESTERN CROP OUTLOOK SERIOUS

Winnipeg, July 7.—As the facts of the Western crop situation are assembled, it becomes increasingly evident that 1918 on these plains will be another 1914, when through the ravages of drought a vast portion of country in southwestern Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta had been re-seeded from extreme hardship by the Federal Government. The fact that we have had one phenomenal and two average harvests since 1914, makes a lean year in 1918 less severe from the personal view of the producer than the season of four years ago, but considered in the light of the great need of the allied nations at war, the present condition in the West is serious.

ITALIANS DRIVE AUSTRIANS BEYOND MOUTH OF THE NEW PIAVE

Further Splendid Success Achieved by Gallant Troops Who Have Taken 24,000 Prisoners Since June 15.

Rome, July 7.—"After five days of uninterrupted struggle," says a late official communication, "the enemy was completely driven on to the left bank of the New Piave Saturday afternoon."

"The recapture of all the coastal zone between Capo Sile and the Piave, which the enemy had occupied and held since November, brilliantly crowns the victory gained by us in the first great battle of our recovery and enlarges the zone of protection for Venice."

"Altogether, since June 15, 523 officers and 23,911 other ranks have been made prisoner. We also captured 63 guns, 65 trench mortars, 1,234 machine guns, 3,700 rifles, two airplanes, 5,000,000 rifle cartridges, many thousands of shells of all kinds, and a large quantity of telephone instruments, and recovered our artillery losses and material which in the advanced zone had to be abandoned during the

first phase of the struggle." The Italian troops on the southern end of the Piave line, having driven the Austrians across the New Piave, are establishing themselves in the extensive region between the new and old river beds, which the Austrians were compelled to evacuate, Sunday's War Office statement shows. The statement highly praises the valor of the troops which won the pronounced success that has been achieved. The text reads:

"Between the Sile and the Piave our troops, having reached with perfect maneuvering and irresistible elan the right bank of the New Piave and driven the enemy to the other side of the river, are now fortifying themselves on the vast tract of ground recaptured, every yard of which shows traces of the epic struggle and furnishes proof that the enemy's losses were much higher than he had foreseen."

COBLENZ DAMAGED IN SEVERE RAID

British Bomb Palace and Kill Soldiers in German Fortress.

London, July 7.—The bombardment of Coblenz on Friday by British airmen was the most severe of the war, according to Basel, Switzerland, despatches, although the work of the airmen was hampered by the presence of a fog. The northern portion of the railway station and the famous Iron Bridge were seriously damaged. A steam fell in the centre of the bridge across the Moselle River and another on the Royal Palace.

South German newspapers state that 12 persons were killed and 23 wounded in Coblenz, but make no mention of the fortress. Photographs taken across the Rhine show bombs fell among soldiers. Since the war began this fortress has always been full of recruits.

THOUSANDS ARE READY TO WORK ON FARMS

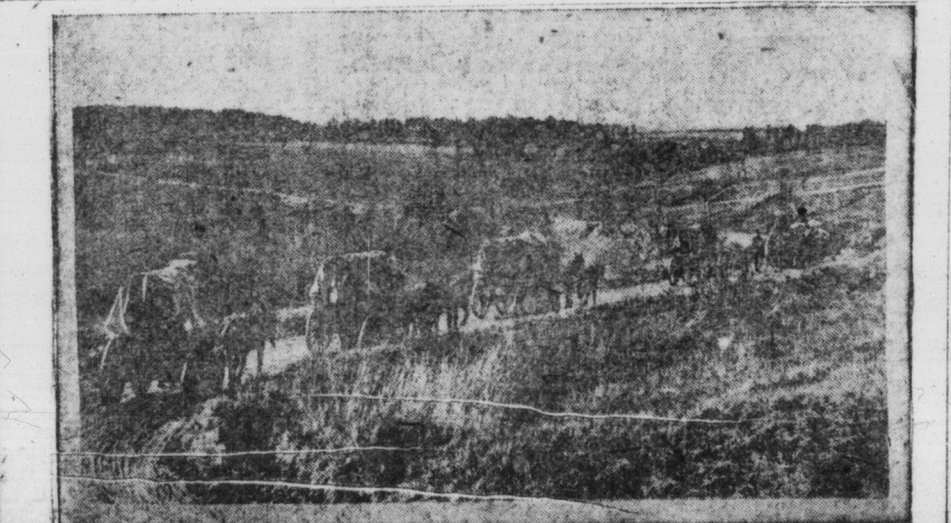
A despatch from Ottawa says:—Highly satisfactory results in connection with the registration of the man and woman-power of Canada have been obtained, according to Senator G. D. Robertson, who, on Thursday, issued his first statement of returns from various constituencies in which the work has been completed. Already the Registration Board has secured the names of thousands of people willing to give assistance in agricultural work, particularly during harvest time.

CANADIAN TROOPS SAFE IN ENGLAND

A despatch from Ottawa says:—It is officially announced through the Chief Press Censor's office that the following troops have arrived in England. Artillery draft No. 10, Toronto; Artillery draft No. 21, Toronto; C.O. Regiment draft No. 23, Quebec; C.O. Regiment draft No. 70, Quebec; Engineers' draft No. 41, St. John's, Que.; Dental draft, A.M.C. reinforcements, V.A.D. Nurses, Toronto.

FRENCH IN VIGOROUS THRUST CAPTURE 1,000 PRISONERS

A despatch from London says:—The French have struck savagely against the German lines on Thursday, this time cutting through the enemy ranks near the town of Autrech, south of Moulins-Tout-vent, where on Tuesday night they won a local success and captured prisoners. Here the Germans lost 1,066 prisoners. The French improved their positions by gaining rather high ground, which can be readily defended when the Germans launch their expected offensive.



American prairie schooners, familiar sights on the plains of both the U.S. and Canada, are being used in France by the Supply Corps of the U.S. army.

From The Middle West

BETWEEN ONTARIO AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Items From Provinces Where Many Ontario Boys and Girls Are Living.

Winnipeg's V.C. hero, Capt. Christopher O'Kelly, has returned to France. Lieut. E. H. Cox, a well-known Winnipeg man, was recently killed in action.

During the month of May there were 41 births in Moose Jaw and six deaths. Winnipeg girls donned overalls and handled freight during the recent C.E.R. strike.

Nursing Sister Iona Wishart, Winnipeg, is among the nurses wounded at Etaples May 19th. Girls' Institutes will be organized as auxiliaries to the Women's Institutes in Western Canada.

Winnipeg Great War Veterans are making an effort to secure civic positions for returned men.

The Manitoba Government has tentatively decided that Winnipeg shall be a city of automatic telephones.

Lieut. H. A. Harper, son of Prof. H. R. Harper, of Western Canada College, has been killed in action.

Allen enemies in western Canada are not to be allowed to buy school lands at the coming sale of school property.

Charles Johnstone, formerly secretary of the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society, died of wounds in France, May 25.

Capt. A. V. Cashman, Calgary, is home on leave, and reports a scarcity of military dentists in France and England.

Winnipeg's Citizens' Committee of One Hundred who did such splendid service during the civic strike, will not disband but will form a league to watch civic events.

Rev. C. G. Stone, of Vegreville, Alta., has joined the Royal Air Force. Alberta coal mines report a swamping of orders, and great difficulty in getting efficient miners.

Enraged citizens of Vonda, Sask., a town northeast of Saskatoon, smeared yellow paint over the store of Joseph Fournier, hardware merchant, because Fournier had refused to subscribe to the military Y.M.C.A. fund.

The C.N.R. will expend the largest part of the proposed \$2,000,000 on new railway extensions throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Winnipeg fuel consumers are advised to lay in an average of 65,000 tons a month during June, July and August in order not to crowd delivery.

The City Council have asked the Dominion Government to take immediate action that will permit Winnipeg citizens to obtain hard coal for next winter.

A tablet to the memory of Lieut. Mowbray Perdue, youngest son of Chief Justice and Mrs. W. E. Perdue, was unveiled in Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg.

Crop conditions in Saskatchewan are more favorable than in Manitoba. Approximately 2,100 men 19 and 20 years old registered in Manitoba.

Hon. W. E. Perdue has been officially appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba.

The Calgary street railway will show a deficit of \$26,000 this year, unless fares are raised.

Winnipeg merchants are protesting against the restriction of luxuries, as many small retailers' business will be crippled.

BRITAIN'S FOOD CONTROLLER DEAD

A despatch from London says:—Viscount Rhonda (David Alfred Thomas), the British Food Controller, died on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock.

Since the recent operations for dispersion of the fluid, consequent to a severe attack of pleurisy, Lord Rhonda weakened gradually. There were few rallies and the bulletins from his bedside in the past few days had held out little hope for his recovery.

Viscount Rhonda was the man who put England and most of the United Kingdom of Great Britain on rations and won the gratitude even of the people whose food supply he regulated. Before he achieved the task it was generally regarded as all but impossible.

ROSS RIFLE FACTORY TO MAKE REVOLVERS

A despatch from Quebec, Que. says:—The factory formerly known as the Ross Rifle Company will be re-opened in September by the North American Arms Company, Limited, a very large order for the manufacture of revolvers for the United States army having been received by the new company, which has just obtained a charter from the Dominion Government and is capitalized at \$2,000,000, the head office is in Quebec. It is a purely Canadian company, the officers being: President, T. A. Russell, Toronto; Vice-President, H. D. Scully, Toronto; and Thomas Craig, former general superintendent of the Ross Rifle Company, has been appointed general manager, and is also on the board of directors. The contract is to be completed by December 31, 1919, and it is said that the maximum number of employees will reach 3,000.

It's hard for an empty bag to stand upright.—Benjamin Franklin.