

German Holocaust

British Guns Mow Down Enemy, Whose Loss is Estimated at 100,000 in Each Day's Battle. Allies Lose Some Guns and Tanks. First Line Holds Firm.

WAR SUMMARY.

France has thrown the weight of her forces in the great battle raging with unexampled intensity on the Western Front, and the British and French armies are now battling together against the onslaught of the common enemy in his desperate attempt to break through the Allied lines. The British armies are holding fast along the line of the Somme and also in the region north of Bapaume. Field Marshal Haig reports to-day that the Germans in their thrusts in the latter section reached the British trenches at only one point, and there they were immediately smothered. Their assaults elsewhere were smothered by the British fire with great losses to the enemy. On the Somme line, hundreds of German troops which had succeeded in forcing their way across the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne, were driven back to the easterly bank. On both sides of Bapaume the German attacks were repulsed to-day. The greatest danger point at present seems to be further south, where the Germans apparently have driven through the greater width of the region they devastated in retreating in 1917, as the Paris statement to-day reports heavy fighting in the region of Noyon. This town itself is some ten miles to the west of Chauny, in the region which Berlin yesterday reported the repulse of Franco-American reserves, but the German advance has probably been met considerably short of Noyon. The wedge driven into the Allied line is evidently a deep one, however, as the French troops are reported by Paris to be contesting for the heights to the north of the Oise with important German forces. The Oise on this part of the front runs southwest past Chauny and passes to the south of Noyon.

GERMAN LOSSES ESTIMATED.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Members of the Allied military missions said to-day that in the nature of the fighting on the West front, the Germans must be losing at least 100,000 men a day. They made this deduction from the German plan of massed attack, the number of troops they are employing and the strength of the Allied resistance. The Allied line, it was declared, would be less than those of the Germans because they are fighting on the defensive.

DESPERATE FIGHTING CONTINUING.

British Army Headquarters, France, March 25.—American engineers have again been in the throes of the fierce conflict, in which they have done excellent work in transportation. German cavalry in small numbers have been in action, but thus far it has been used merely to harass the British during their withdrawal. The Germans have been pushing forward by sheer weight of numbers with the assistance of little artillery. In the region between Bapaume and Peronne the British fell back again somewhat in the fighting late on Sunday. This marked the main success of the enemy whose progress is being contested bit by bit. Early this morning the Germans again hurled great numbers of infantry against the British line near Ervillers, but at the latter reports the crushing troops had been unable to force their way through the intense artillery barrage which

the British maintained. A heavy battle also has been proceeding to-day on the British right flank, where the enemy had succeeded in forcing his way across the Somme and the Canal south of Ham. The Allies were delivering counter attacks with the purpose of pushing the invaders back across the waterway. There seems small doubt that the German attacking troops are dog weary and fighting under great strain, but this is men- tioned merely as an interesting side- light and not for the purpose of sounding a note of optimism. Harder fighting than has yet occurred un- doubtedly will follow. Throughout the night there was fierce fighting north of Bapaume along the Bapaume Arras road, but except that Mory again changed hands, the defenders held their own gallantly.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.

BERLIN, March 25. (Official.)—The losses of the enemy in killed and wounded are unusually heavy. The booty which has fallen into our hands since March 21st is tremendous and can't yet be ascertained. More than 45,000 prisoners have been taken. The number of guns captured is largely in excess of 600. We have taken thousands of machine guns, tremendous quantities of munitions and implements of war and great stores of supplies and clothing equipment. In the evening we bombarded Paris with long range guns. At Verdun and in Lorraine artillery duels continued. In other theatres there is nothing to report.

HAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The War Department has seen no cause for alarm on the part of the people of the United States, said Major-General Peyton G. March, acting chief of staff, commenting on the situation in France. Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. That announcement is to be accepted. Gen. March stated specifically that the War Department still was without information which would confirm the report that American units had taken part in the great battle.

LITTLE SUCCESS FOR GERMANS.

LONDON, March 25.—The Manchester Guardian, under heading, "A good omen for the future," says: "A retreating fight, as everyone knows since Mons and Verdun, can be a real success if the intentions of the enemy are defeated and the integrity of the front is preserved. In the present case there is no doubt that the Germans, although they have covered a great deal of ground, have failed in the main purpose of every offensive, which is to annihilate or capture large contingents of opposing forces. It is apparent also that while breaking through our fortified lines they have at no time succeeded in breaking through the living line of our defenses. The paper considers that although ground may have been lost, the result of the battle in all other respects may turn out to be a defeat for the enemy."

MOWING DOWN GERMANS.

LONDON, March 25.—The Germans swarmed over "No Man's Land" in such numbers in their first attack that it was impossible for

the British gunners to miss them. Telegraphs the correspondent at British headquarters in France of the Daily Express. Two batteries at Epehy fired steadily with open sights at four hundred yards for four hours. Telling of the thrilling experience of the Leicestershire troops, the correspondent says: "Perzures was held for a time by two companies of Leicestershire assisted by two tanks. The enemy kept pressing back, however, and one company was completely cut off. Instead of surrendering they held the village until only a few men were left, then the surviving officers led them in a charge through two lines of Germans and they fought their way back to our main body."

SOME DETAILS OF ATTACK.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 25.—The main thrust on the British right flank by the Germans, Thursday morning, was south of St. Quentin and the enemy used a division, for every two hundred yards of the front there being approximately one German battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urvilles and Essigny la Grand and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It is now possible to give more details of the early stages of this and other fighting. On the extreme right of the British army the enemy crossed the river Oise at two places. One body of troops came out of La Fere and swung north, while another army crossed at Mory and turned south, to form a junction with the La Fere group. Throughout the day the battle raged in the lowlands about the Oise at Venduil. A group of British held out until four o'clock Friday afternoon. A little further north the Germans stormed Arvillers and Essigny. Just west of St. Quentin the British were forced to fall back, but throughout the day they clung to the Holnon Wood. A little northwest of the city, south of St. Quentin, a number of strong British rebois made a gallant defence, and it was nightfall before the last of them, with their machine guns, had been reduced. The end of the first day found the British behind the St. Quentin Canal. Friday morning the enemy renewed his assault with increasing vigour, and after desperate fighting in the region of La Fere succeeded in getting across to the British side. Further north the British also withdrew from the Holnon Wood. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the Canal drove southward into the British positions. In the other main theatre of operations between Arras and Bapaume the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between Cojel and Senze rivers. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific, and the infantry outnumbered the British eight to one in some cases. Early the Germans began attacking southward into Bulle- court, and the British withdrew to a line covering Vanlex, Vranecourt, Morechies and Baumetz Las Camval. The hottest and most disputed point was Mory, which the Germans occupied early yesterday.

RETREAT ACCORDING TO PLAN.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Major General MacLachlan, military attache to the British Embassy, made the following statement to the Associated Press: "This morning's news shows that our line of defence is not broken, but only bent. The battle appears in fact to be pursuing the course that might be expected in view of the tremendous weight of the attack. So far as can be gathered the enemy has concentrated against us about half the total forces they have on the west front. The concentration of artillery is on the same unprecedented scale. Our advanced lines were actually penetrated in a few places yesterday, but only by far the greater part of the sector attacked our retreat has been voluntary, in accordance with previous plans to stronger positions. Had our first lines been nowhere penetrated this retirement would in all probability have taken place just the same. To have held on indefinitely would have meant unnecessary loss of life. As it is our losses have been considerable, but not excessive. The enemy on the other hand must have lost heavily. He has attacked in dense masses, relying to break down our defenses on sheer weight of numbers. After gaining a few miles of war- swept territory he is now approaching the first of our main defenses with many of his best divisions out of commission. It may well be that he will make a further advance if he pursues the reckless tactics of the last few days, an advance, however, we can afford to wait with equanimity. Germany has made no secret that she is staking everything on this blow. She has promised her people and her Allies that its success will produce victory and peace. So long as the battle ends, as there is every prospect that it will end, with our armies and those of our Allies intact, and in a position as strong as they have ever occupied, Germany will have failed and failed decisively. The opening of the fighting season of 1918 will find her with the flower of her army gone and with her people disheartened by the most spectacular and costly failure of the war. Finally it must be remembered that the battle is still only in its first stage. Behind our army is the great army of our strategic reserves, which have not been used."

"LONG TOM" OUT OF ACTION.

PARIS, March 25.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6.30 o'clock this morning, but was interrupted after the second shot. As was the case yesterday, the people did not take shelter. The collars, which were filled on Saturday, remained empty this morning. Little interest was shown in the bombardment. Soon after they were awakened by the first shot people were brought to their windows by the rattle of drums. Police were circulated through every quarter of the city, introducing the new system of alarm, which is distinguished from the alarm in the cases of air raids. The police came in for a great amount of chaffing, the people being greatly amused at their lack of proficiency with the drum sticks. This appeared to mark their limit of interest in the bombardment. Work was resumed under normal conditions, all the transportation lines were running, the streets were full of people, whose sole subject of conversation was the new battle of the Somme, which is generally compared with Verdun.

BERLIN VERSION.

BERLIN, March 25.—(German official via British Admiralty and Wireless Press.)—The Germans are now standing to the north of the Somme, in the middle of the former Somme battlefield. Bapaume was captured in night fighting. Last night Noele was taken by storm, but British, French and Americans were thrown back through a pathless wood. More than 45,000 prisoners and more than 600 guns have been captured. Guiscard and Chauny were captured in the evening. Violent fighting developed for possession of Comblies, and the heights west of the town. The enemy was defeated.

BRITISH COUNTER ATTACKING.

LONDON, March 25.—The British this morning were counter attacking between Neale and Ham, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports. The French also were in action. North of Bapaume, he states, the Germans were attacking in considerable force at dawn, but did not get through the British barrage.

BRITISH OFFICIAL (LAST NIGHT).

LONDON, March 25.—The capture by the Germans of the towns of Noele and Guiscard, announced by the Berlin official to-day, is confirmed in to-night's British official. The text reads: During the morning of March 25th our troops on the front from the Somme as far north as Wancourt had beaten off continuous and heavy attacks with complete success. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy by our artillery and machine guns, while our low fly-

ing airplanes attacked the enemy advancing columns further in the rear. A heavy attack delivered by fresh enemy troops in the evening enabled them to progress west and southwest of Bapaume in the direction of Courcellette. South of Peronne our troops have been pressed back in several places slightly west of the Somme, while further south the enemy has succeeded in making some progress and has captured Noele and Guiscard. French reinforcements are arriving in this neighborhood. Our troops, although tired, are in good health and fighting splendidly. The enemy is only progressing at the cost of heavy sacrifices. Our losses in material have been heavy, and include a certain number of tanks.

AROUND PERONNE AND BAPAUME.

LONDON, March 25.—Fighting of a most severe description has been taking place all day on the front south of Peronne and south and north of Bapaume, says Haig's official report from headquarters to-night. In both sectors the enemy has attacked our positions in great strength with fresh forces, and in spite of the gallant resistance of our troops has forced us to give ground. German troops are in Neale and Bapaume. Heavy fighting continues.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

30th NOVEMBER, 1917.

LIABILITIES.

TO THE PUBLIC—	
Notes of the Bank in circulation	\$ 23,995,244 68
Deposits not bearing interest	\$ 86,458,403 02
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date	189,967,251 39
Balances due to other Banks in Canada	276,425,654 41
Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	150,000 00
Bills Payable	7,295,110 40
Acceptances under Letters of Credit	120,857 29
	5,397,665 13
	\$ 314,015,489 92
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS—	
Dividends Unpaid	2,668 20
Dividend No. 123 and bonus, payable 1st December	525,000 00
Capital Paid up	\$ 15,000,000 00
Reserve Account	13,500,000 00
Balance of Profits as per Profit and Loss Account	1,332,074 52
	\$ 29,832,074 52
	\$ 344,375,232 64

ASSETS.

Gold and Silver Coin Current	\$ 22,697,336 96
Dominion Notes	21,954,910 25
Deposit in the Central Gold Reserve	10,000,000 00
	\$ 54,652,247 21
Notes of other Banks	\$ 2,004,762 00
Cheques on other Banks	11,930,875 21
Balances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	8,496,103 99
	22,431,741 20
Dominion and Provincial Government Securities, not exceeding market value	27,596,420 22
British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities and Canadian Municipal Securities	22,065,133 29
Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks, not exceeding market value	6,192,461 60
Call and Short Loans (not exceeding 30 days) in Canada on Bonds, Debentures and Stocks	13,460,862 62
Call and Short Loans (not exceeding 30 days) elsewhere than in Canada	20,076,903 18
Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the Circulation Fund	831,173 35
	\$ 167,336,942 67
Other Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest)	149,822,028 44
Other Current Loans and Discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest)	14,846,130 56
Liabilities of Customers under Letters of Credit, as per contract	5,397,665 13
Overdue Debts (estimated loss provided for)	237,796 39
Real Estate other than Bank Premises (including the unsold balance of former premises of the Eastern Townships Bank)	\$ 1,236,992 52
Less mortgage assumed	100,000 00
	1,136,992 52
Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank	196,005 81
Bank Premises at cost, less amounts written off	\$ 5,390,075 44
Less mortgage assumed on property purchased	300,000 00
	5,090,075 44
Other Assets not included in the foregoing	111,388 68
	\$ 344,375,232 64

B. E. WALKER PRESIDENT JOHN AIRD GENERAL MANAGER

Report of the Auditors to the Shareholders of The Canadian Bank of Commerce

In accordance with the provisions of sub-sections 19 and 20 of Section 56 of the Bank Act, 1913, we report as follows: We have audited the above Balance Sheet and compared it with the books and vouchers at Head Office and with the certified returns from the branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and are of the opinion that the transactions of the Bank which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the Bank. We have checked the cash and verified the securities representing the investments of the Bank at its chief office and principal branches at a date other than, and in addition to, the verification at 30th November, 1917, and found that they were in agreement with the entries in the books of the Bank relating thereto. In our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Bank according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Bank.

T. HARRY WEBB, C.A., of Webb, Reid, Hegan, Callaghan & Co., AUDITORS.

JAMES MARWICK, C.A., of Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Co., AUDITORS.

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The advance in the price of these goods is not nearly so noticeable as in other articles, so that we can supply a very good machine at a fairly moderate figure. We shall be pleased to show them and quote prices.

(See 7th Page.)

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the help and relief of this world-famed remedy, to keep the body in health. They quickly establish normal conditions, so the organs perform their functions as Nature intended. No other remedy will so surely strengthen the system, stimulate the liver, regulate the bowels and quickly improve the general health as

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