

# ARMY OF BRITAIN NOW CLOSER TO ST. QUENTIN

## BRITISH CAPTURE MORE VILLAGES IN NORTH FRANCE

### Army Attacks German Lines on Wide Front from Point South of Arras to South of Lens, Opening What is Considered Important, General Offensive.

London, April 9.—The British early this morning attacked the German lines on a wide front, from a point south of Arras to the south of Lens, thus opening what is believed here to be a general spring offensive. The move has been looked forward to eagerly for some days. The offensive of the British Fifth Corps in the latter part of last week, the attack on Zebrugge on Saturday night and the activity of the French in Belgium, as shown in yesterday's official communication from Paris, were made in a prelude to important military operations.

Penetrated Everywhere.

The British commander, General Haig, whose reports are always modest, says the general line has been penetrated everywhere and that satisfactory progress was made in the direction of Cambrai and St. Quentin, the important positions in connection with the new German line. The extension of the attack northward to the British more elbow room for their operations from Arras to the point of juncture with the French around St. Quentin.

Stormed Villages.

London, April 9.—British troops today penetrated the German lines all along a wide front from Arras to Lens, the war office announced. The statement says that in the direction of Cambrai the British have stormed the villages of Hermies and Boursies, and penetrated Havincourt Wood, in the direction of St. Quentin. The British took Fresnoy Le Petit and advanced their line southeast of Leveguier. No estimate of the number of Germans captured can yet be given, the statement says, but the number is considerable. Referring to the attack on the front between Arras and Lens, the statement says, "we are making satisfactory progress at all points."

"We attacked at 5.30 o'clock this morning on a wide front from south of Arras to south of Lens. Our troops have everywhere penetrated the enemy's lines and are making satisfactory progress at all points. In the direction of Cambrai we stormed the villages of Hermies and Boursies and have penetrated into Havincourt Wood. In the direction of St. Quentin we captured Fresnoy Le Petit and advanced our lines southeast of Leveguier. No estimate of the prisoners taken can yet be given, but considerable numbers are reported captured."

## CANADIANS GET PLACE OF HONOR

Terrible Gun-Fire.

(Continued from page 1)

By Saturday afternoon Thelus, the chief village held by the enemy on the ridge and lying due east of Neville-St. Vaast, was pounded out of the contention, only two houses remaining. Prisoners taken told of heavy enemy losses. Even in deep dugouts, where the Germans had hoped to be reasonably safe in that rain of death, no safety was to be found anywhere. In a desperate attempt to blind the eyes of the attacking army, the Germans on Saturday endeavored to destroy our observation balloons. Our guns continued the work of devastation under conditions which made a spectacle that had never been seen in the Dominion. A continuous play like that of the northern lights in the Dominion, or distant sheet lightning. This was sharply broken now and again by a column of reddish-yellow flame, where on the ridge high explosives were bursting.

Fired All Sunday.

The gunners, with tireless energy, continued the cannonade throughout Easter Sunday. On Monday morning came the supreme moment, that in which our infantry were called upon to go out and reap the fruit of months of preparation. They had endured, unwaveringly, the answering fire of the enemy, which, however, was not comparable to ours. Some, impatient to be at the foe, had gone out on small wars of their own, and it is recorded that in one of the individual encounters in "No Man's Land," a Canadian meeting a German, pursued him after emptying his revolver ineffectively at him. The Canadian cast about for some other weapon. The only one within reach was his steel helmet, and with the sharp edge of that he killed the armed German.

Casualties Light.

Of the casualties it can only be said that this moment that they were surprisingly light, especially in view of the importance of the ground won. The prisoners taken on the Canadian part of the front probably total close to two thousand. The British troops on the adjacent part of the front captured over three thousand. Our men were splendid, and proud that they have been counted worthy to furnish a striking force in so important an operation.

**FRESH FRAGRANT FLAVORFUL**

**TEA**

You'll Like the Flavor

## DEALT PROHIBITORY LEGISLATION

### Rev. W. R. Robinson Explains Very Fully Various Sections of the New Act.

Before the German St. Baptist Brotherhood, last night Rev. W. R. Robinson gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the prohibition law which is to come into effect on May 1st next. He traced the history of temperance legislation in the province from 1855 and told briefly of the struggles of the temperance advocates which were crowned with success when in the government of the province placed on the statute books the best prohibitory law in the Dominion of Canada. The temperance people had approached the government and asked for a law either with or without a referendum feature and after mature consideration the government had decided that they would pass an absolute prohibitory law on the temperance men themselves to frame it.

In consequence of this action on their part a committee of five men had been appointed and compiled the present law which had been pronounced by experts from all parts of the country the best in Canada. He then took up some of the provisions of the act and for two hours was kept busy answering questions asked by the men present and everyone went home with a much clearer conception of what the law really was. Messrs. E. C. Brown, Hazen Dick and H. L. Genter representing the retail druggists and it is just possible they may reconsider their determination not to act as vendors under the new law. Mr. Robinson pointed out that they would not be liquor sellers in any sense of the term, but would merely handle alcohol as they did other drugs for medicinal or manufacturing purposes, and with the vendor's license they could import liquor, but he could not give it away or sell it. If any person gave a drink of liquor to another person in his own home, it would be perfectly legal. He touched on the penalties provided for violations of the law and pointed out that any druggist who violated the law on the second offence had his drugist license taken away from him and here was another protection for the reputable druggist.

The enforcement of the law was placed in the hands of the chief inspector and this was one of the best features of the act; for enforcement of a prohibitory law depended a great deal on the officers appointed to carry it out. E. L. Rising presided and at the close of Mr. Robinson's address a vote of thanks was moved by P. Dyke, a man and seconded by E. B. Jones and H. L. Genter. It is probable that the Brotherhood will appoint a committee to help in the work of the Prohibition Enforcement League.

Dear to France.

No ground in France is more dear to the hearts of the French people than the front from which the Canadians set out to drive the enemy from the positions on the ridge of Vimy. The chapel of Notre Dame De Lorette, Souchez and the Sugar Refinery, to conquer the crumbling ruins of which men died during the war in thousands; the Cabaret, Rouge Neuville, St. Vaast, the Labyrinth are names that will be forever glorious there.

Record of Canadians.

When asked what about the Canadian troops and their record, Mr. Kuhring waxed eloquent, and said that the boys from the land of the maple leaf had won undying glory in all branches of the service but particularly in the artillery. In this branch of the service they had no superiors and not many equals and one of the most wonderful things about the whole campaign was the accuracy with which they controlled their barrage of fire, placing it within twenty paces of the advancing infantry. When an advance was ordered the men of the artillery and the infantry were given the correct time and as the advance was made the artillery gradually lifted the range so that the men could make the advance without being in any danger from their own guns. The efficiency of the artillery in destroying the enemy wire entanglements and trenches was marvellous and it was no uncommon thing to find the trench completely wiped

## BRITISH LOSSES STATED TO BE COMPARATIVELY LIGHT

### One of British Armies Alone Takes No Less Than 3,500 in New Drive—Along Greater Part of Front Advance of Infantry Strenuously Opposed by Germans, Especially Near Arras—Large Party of Huns Surrounded.

London, April 9.—Some 3,500 prisoners have been captured in the new drive against the German lines by one of the British armies alone, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France telegraphs today.

The prisoners have been coming in in an endless procession, the correspondent reports. The fighting is increasing in intensity as the battle progresses. The British losses thus far are reported comparatively slight.

**STRONG OPPOSITION.**

Along the greater part of the front, says the correspondent, the advance of the infantry was strenuously opposed. Near Arras the Germans offered determined resistance, and a large pocket of the Germans was reported to be still holding out at midday, although entirely surrounded. The famous redoubt named "The Harp," only a little less formidable than the noted "Labyrinth" was captured with virtually the whole battalion defending it. "Several tanks" were seen climbing Telegraph Hill, which commands "The Harp" and probably had much to do with the surrender of this position.

Along the railway running through to the valley of the Scarpe, adds the correspondent, the British made good progress, while upon the Lens branch of the line they captured Maison Blanche Wood.

## CANADIAN ARTILLERY HAS MADE WONDERFUL RECORD

### Rev. G. A. Kuhring Tells of Experience on Battle Fields of Europe—Heroism of Nurses at Lemnos, in Gallipoli Campaign, Beyond Praise.

Rev. G. A. Kuhring arrived in the city yesterday, after having been for over two years away serving King and Country in the mighty struggle now in progress. He was given a warm welcome home on the arrival of the steamer and last night, although very tired after the trip across the "pond," presided at the annual meeting of St. John's (Stone) church of which he is rector. In order to get home, Mr. Kuhring had to resign his commission as chaplain as it was impossible for him to obtain leave and he felt that he had been absent from his work here long enough.

At Lemnos.

When they arrived at Lemnos they found conditions very bad due to the climatic conditions and the scarcity of supplies of all kinds. Lemnos was a base for troops as well as supplies, and the sickness among the troops stationed there, as well as those on Gallipoli was very bad. The hospital to which Mr. Kuhring was attached was equipped for 400 beds but they often had as many as 1,000 men under their care at one time.

Heroic Nurses.

The work of the nurses under the trying conditions which existed was wonderful and no person who had not seen where they were could appreciate the wonderful heroism shown by them in caring for the sick soldier boys. The heat was intense and to make matters worse they had to contend with scourges of flies and storms which tore down the tents. Another of their troubles was the lack of water and the heroism of the nurses and the men themselves was beyond praise.

Funerals.

The funeral of George Marsh took place yesterday afternoon. Rev. D. J. MacPherson conducted the service, interment at Fernhill.

The funeral of Mrs. Mary Kemp, Newman street, took place yesterday afternoon at the Mission church, where service was held by Rev. J. V. Young. Interment in Fernhill.

## INVALIDS HOME FROM THE FRONT

### Officers and Men From France Arrive Here Yesterday—Major Morris Speaks of Situation in the East.

After spending two years in the medical service of the British army Major (Dr.) C. H. Morris, a native of Windsor, N. S., arrived in St. John yesterday. Major Morris was the senior medical officer in charge of the returned men who reached the city yesterday.

One of the first Nova Scotians to offer his service in the care of the sick and wounded was Major Morris. His ability as a doctor was soon recognized by the authorities in England, and shortly after his arrival he was granted a majority. For some time he was attached to No. 1 Stationary Hospital in France. From there he was ordered to Saloniki, where his work won for him special mention in General Milne's despatches. General Milne is the general officer commanding the eastern forces.

Speaking of the Greek situation Major Morris told The Standard representative that it was impossible to fathom it out. The two classes, Royalist and Venizelistas were not in harmony with each other and it required a large number of troops to look after the situation.

Cared For Many.

Among the eastern men to reach the city yesterday from the front was Corp. W. E. Cunliffe of Sydney Mines. He has the distinction of being the first man in Sydney Mines, which has contributed about seventy-six per cent of the eligible population to the defense of the Empire, to volunteer for ambulance work. Although well up in years he was willing to give the last few years of his life to the country which gave him birth. He has cared for members of every Canadian unit which has left the shores of Canada. On his belt he carries a collar badge of every unit he has been associated with, many of which are New Brunswick battalions.

Major Burke of the Y. M. C. A. was also a member of yesterday's party. He is returning to Canada to institute a campaign for funds for the work carried on by the Y. M. C. A. overseas. This campaign will be started immediately in the Dominion. It is the intention of those in charge to open the campaign in Halifax and work from east to west, visiting each

Back to England.

About three months ago Mr. Kuhring was recalled to England with a promise of leave but when he arrived he found that this could not be arranged and he was sent to the King's Canadian Red Cross Convalescent Hospital, Bushey Park, which was under the command of the same officer he was with at Lemnos.

He again tried to obtain leave but was unsuccessful and feeling that he must come home he sent in his resignation which was accepted and he will now take up his work in the church.

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Heavy Fighting Forced His W German Officer

London, April 9.—A communication issued by the German High Command at Berlin says that heavy fighting is going on throughout the day at Arras, "the enemy his way into parts of our territory." The report adds that strong artillery firing on Champagne fronts.

Heavy Fighting Berlin, April 9, via London.—Sorenson Entente brought down yesterday morning from the war office. The statement says that Arras, begun this morning hours of strong fighting. Referring to the battle of the Somme, the statement says that fighting increased yesterday.

BRITAIN AND MAY CO-OPERATION IN COMMERCE

Washington, April 9.—Commercial relations with and with the Central Powers studied by a government committee to determine whether the Allies are making necessary concessions in their trade relations with Germany. The committee is also investigating whether the Allies are making necessary concessions in their trade relations with Germany.

Other Maritime Men

Out of the party which arrived about thirty-two will receive their discharge from this depot. They will go before a medical board this morning at the depot. Several of the maritime men were sent to Canada on account of rheumatism.

Fred Roberts of the 145th Battalion was returned on this account. He enlisted in Kent county in this battalion. He told The Standard last night that it was impossible to get across the channel unless a man was in the pink of condition.

Pte. F. Smith of the 166th Battalion was also returned on account of rheumatism. He enlisted in Amherst. He was very much disappointed when informed that he would have to return home. He has one nephew at the front.

Pte. Fred Renouf of the 13th Battalion will be discharged from this depot. He was wounded in the back at the famous battle ground of Ypres. Pte. Renouf enlisted in Sydney Mines and went to England in the 23rd Battalion but was transferred to the 13th Canadian Highlanders.

Pte. J. J. Ross of New Glasgow was also a member of the party. Lieut. Bruce McFarland of Fredericton is home on leave from the front. The list included sixty officers, nursing sisters, three attendants, 106 furloughs and 384 men.

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