

# The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

VOL. VIII. NO. 134.

TEN PAGES

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 28, 1916.

WEATHER — SHOWERY

PRICE TWO CENTS

## BRITISH ARMY HAS NEVER DONE BETTER WORK THAN IN THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE LAST WEEK

### EVERY ATTACK HAS BEEN A REAL GAIN OF SORT THAT WILL COUNT IN OPERATIONS OF THE FUTURE

#### Prussian Guards Attacked British Lines but Were Beaten Back---Further Successful Offensive on Somme Where British Captured Trenches---Progress Near Thiepval Despite Most Desperate Attempts of Enemy to Stem the Tide.

"A Week of Gains and the Kind We Want."

With the British Artillery in France, Aug. 26, via London, Aug. 27.—"It was a week of gains, and the kind of gains we want," said a British staff officer today, reviewing the result of the week's British offensive. "A thousand yards here and there," the officer continued, "but every time it has meant advantage on ground we wanted for future purposes. The German attacks have only been counter-attacks, to recover ground they have lost. Not an attack that we made this week but has been a gain. As a matter of soldierly efficiency, the British army has never done better work than this week."

PRUSSIAN GUARDS WERE BEATEN BACK.

London, Aug. 26.—A heavy attack made by the Prussian Guards against British positions at Thiepval, on the Somme front, was repulsed by the Worcestershire and Wiltshire regiments. It was officially announced this afternoon. Further progress by the British in their attack on Thiepval is also reported, ground gained on both sides of Mouquet Farm, notably to the southwest, where 400 yards of German trenches along the Courcellette-Thiepval road were captured.

The official statement was as follows:

"The enemy bombarded our first line trenches along the greater part of our front south of the Ancre at various times from seven o'clock last night until early this morning.

"Covered by his artillery fire, he attacked our positions west of Guillemont, between the quarries and the Montauban-Guillemont railroad. He did not reach our lines at any point and was repulsed with loss."

Near Mouquet Farm we made further progress, both on the east side of the farmstead and also southwest, where we have taken another 300 yards of the enemy's trenches along the Courcellette-Thiepval road.

BRITISH TAKE OFFENSIVE ON SOMME FRONT.

London, Aug. 27.—British troops took the offensive last night on the Somme front, north of Bazentin-Le-Petit.

The war office announcement of today says they captured 200 yards of a German trench, taking one machine gun. The announcement follows:

"In the successful attacks reported in the communiques of Friday seven more machine guns were captured than originally reported.

"Yesterday evening we took a further 200 yards of a German trench north of Bazentin-Le-Petit, capturing one machine gun.

"During the night the enemy's artillery has been active between the Somme and the Ancre. The enemy also shelled the neighborhood of Bethune during the night, and our heavy artillery retaliated on railway stations and barracks used by the enemy.

"Near Hill 60 the enemy exploded a mine which caused no damage. There is nothing to report from the rest of the front."

FURTHER GAIN OF GROUND.

London, Aug. 27.—The following official communication was issued this evening:

"During the past twenty-four hours bad weather, to some extent, has interfered with our operations. We have, however, gained ground northwest of Ghinoy.

"In the afternoon there was considerable artillery activity by both sides, the enemy fire being directed mainly against our support trenches, and more especially toward the north of Longueval. Our guns blew up some of the enemy bomb stores. Between Neuve Chapelle and Armentieres, we exploded mines. The enemy blew two small mines southwest of Auchy and south of the Ypres salient. There were no casualties in either case.

"Four German officers and fifty-five men of other ranks were captured south of the Ancre last night and this morning."

CONTINUED PROGRESS NEAR THIEPVAL.

London, Aug. 26.—German troops have made two attempts to enter the British lines in front of Bethune, north of Arras, and German artillery has shelled points near Ypres and Arras, says the official communication issued today.

On the Somme front the Germans have bombarded the Mametz Wood and trenches north of the Delville Wood. Fighting still continues in the region of the Mesquet Farm. The statement reads:

"The enemy's artillery bombarded Mametz Wood about midday today, and our trenches north of the Delville Wood during the afternoon. Around the Mesquet Farm the fighting continued today. In this area and in the trenches south of Thiepval we have captured one German officer and sixty-six men of other ranks during the last twenty-four hours.

"Two hostile attempts on one of our saps south of the Bethune-Labasse road this morning were driven back by our rifle fire. The enemy shelled Rocklincourt (north of Arras) La Coutre, and our trenches east of Zillbeke (east of Ypres) during the day, and there was also much trench mortar activity on both sides near the Hohenzollern redoubt. Yesterday our batteries successfully engaged many enemy gun positions, some of which were destroyed or otherwise damaged.

"Our aircraft carried out many attacks on points of military importance behind the enemy's lines, dropping, in all, about five tons of bombs. One hostile machine was brought down, and at least one other was brought down in a damaged condition. Two of our machines are missing."

## HUNS HURL THEIR MEN ON FRENCH

#### Four Vicious Attacks Made Saturday Night in Vaux-Chapitre Wood and Apremont.

#### Despite Ferocity of the German Rushes they were Unable to Penetrate the French Line.

Paris, Aug. 27.—Three attacks were made by the Germans last night against French positions in the Vaux-Chapitre Wood northeast of Verdun, and one in the Apremont Forest in Lorraine. The official statement of today says the assaults were repulsed. The statement follows:

"On the Somme front the night was comparatively calm. Persistent bad weather interfered with operations.

"On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the Germans, in the night made three successive attacks on our positions in Vaux-Chapitre Wood. Stopped each time by our fire the enemy was obliged to return to his trenches, after suffering appreciable losses.

"In Lorraine several surprise attacks of the enemy on our small positions between Arzacourt and Emmerin were repulsed easily. In Apremont Forest there was lively fighting during the night. Our grenadiers engaged in combats of considerable violence with enemy patrols, which they dispersed. At about ten o'clock the Germans made an attack on a front of about 800 yards against our trenches near Croix St. Jean. The enemy was caught by our curtain of fire and sustained complete defeat.

"On the remainder of the front nothing of importance occurred."

## OUR TROOPS IN ENGLAND

#### Censor Announces Arrival of Battalions which Recently Sailed from Canada.

Ottawa, Aug. 27.—It was officially announced, through the censor's office that the following troops have arrived safely in England:

The 117th Battalion, Valcartier Camp; the 120th Battalion, Windsor, N. S.; the 121st Battalion, Vernon, B. C.; the 126th Battalion, Camp Borden; the 128th Battalion, Winnipeg.

## BRITISH NAVAL AUXILIARY TORPEDOED IN NORTH SEA

London, Aug. 27, 2.35 p. m.—The torpedoing in the North Sea of a British naval auxiliary, with the loss of 23 men, was announced officially today. Eighty-seven men were saved. The torpedoed vessel was the armed boarding steamer Duke of Albany.

"The British armed boarding steamer Duke of Albany was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea on Tuesday by an enemy submarine. The commander and twenty-four men were lost. Eleven officers and seventy-six ratings were saved."

The Duke of Albany was a vessel of 1,997 tons gross, built in 1907 and owned in Glasgow.

## ANXIETY IN AUSTRO-HUNGARY OVER BALKAN DEVELOPMENTS

London, Aug. 27.—The developments in the Balkans appear to be causing intense anxiety in Austria-Hungary, according to advices received here from Bern, Switzerland. These advices say there is a serious political crisis in Hungary, the opposition leaders having demanded a coalition cabinet, which demand the emperor has refused to comply with.

## C.P.R. TELEGRAPH COMPANY STARTS ON IMPORTANT SERVICE

#### Today will See the Inauguration of a Day Letter Service which will be in Force all Over Canada.

Montreal, Aug. 26.—Mr. J. McMillan, who has initiated many notable improvements since he became general manager of the C.P.R. Telegraph, 15 months ago, has decided to inaugurate today, August 26th, an important service entirely new to Canada over the

## ITALY FORMALLY DECLARES WAR AGAINST THE GERMANS

#### Italians Drive Austrians From Important Points On Crest of Carnic Alps

#### Enemy Forced to Retire from Cita Vallon and Monte Carli—All Attempts to Retake Ground Failed—No Special Activity in the Gorizia Sector.

Rome, Aug. 27, via London, 2.32 p. m.—In the Carnic Alps the Italians pushed forward yesterday, taking Austrian positions on Cita Vallon, the war office announced today. No revival of activity is reported on the Isonzo front, where a lull has followed the Italian offensive which resulted in the capture of Gorizia and territory further south.

"On the Trentino front," the statement says, "the enemy showed considerable activity with his artillery and trench mortars. There was much musketry fire also, but no infantry attacks developed.

"At the head of the Digeon river, in the Upper Piave Valley, (Carnic Alps), we extended our occupation of positions on Cita Vallon.

"In the Gorizia area and on the Carso hostile artillery was directed actively against the Isonzo bridges and the Vallon positions. A few shells fell on Gorizia and Romans."

Rome, Aug. 26.—Italian troops have won additional successes in the Alpine regions, along the northern part of the Austro-Italian front, the war office announced.

The advances were made in the Fassina Alps and in the Travinolo, Travanzese and Rion valleys. No special activity in the Gorizia sector is reported.

"In the Posina Valley we repulsed an attack against our positions on Monte Seluglio. The enemy suffered heavy losses and left some prisoners in our hands. In the Pussa Alps our Alpine troops made progress towards the ridge of Monte Carli.

"Our vigorous pressure in the Travinolo Valley continues and a counter-attack against the north of the slopes of Col Bricon was repulsed. In the Travanzese Valley and the Upper Dolle we advanced along the slopes of Tofan. On Mont Pano, at the head of the Rienz Valley, our troops carried a strong enemy trench beyond Forcella Des Castrati, taking about 20 prisoners, including one officer. A counter-attack was checked promptly. On the remainder of the front there was some artillery activity."

"One of our air squadrons bombarded the railway station at San Cristoforo, north of Lante Calcedon, causing heavy damage. All the machines returned except one. Above Gorizia, after a lively air fight, one of our aviators forced a hostile aeroplane to land in the neighborhood of Alavizzo."

"On our right wing there was intermittent artillery activity by both sides in the region of Jenkoi, on the left bank of the Struma. The British artillery has bombarded ceaselessly Mount Velez there were some engagements by patrol.

"In the centre there was a medium cannonade in the region of Lake Doiran, but the cannonade was very lively west of the river Vardar.

"On the Serbian front, southwest of Kukuruz, the Bulgarians delivered six counter-attacks in the region of Vetrnik, but were repulsed all along the

## SERBIANS AND BULGARS AT GRIPS ON MACEDONIAN LINE

#### Gallant Serbs Beat Back Bulgarian Attack and Inflict Heavy Slaughter on Enemy—Bulgarians Continue Attacks on Greek Fort.

Paris, Aug. 27 (2.30 p. m.)—Violent fighting between Bulgarian and Serbian troops continues on the Macedonian front, in the region of Lake Ostrovo. The war office announced today that the Serbs, making countless attacks had pushed back the Bulgarians. All but one of the forts about the Greek port of Kavala have been occupied by the Bulgarians. It was reported that the Bulgarians had bombarded these positions on Friday.

Serbs Win in Heavy Fighting. Paris, Aug. 27, 2.47 a. m.—The war office has given out the following official communication concerning the operations in the Balkans:

"On our right wing there was intermittent artillery activity by both sides in the region of Jenkoi, on the left bank of the Struma. The British artillery has bombarded ceaselessly Mount Velez there were some engagements by patrol.

"In the centre there was a medium cannonade in the region of Lake Doiran, but the cannonade was very lively west of the river Vardar.

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#### Official Announcement Declares State of War Exists from Today.

#### NOTHING MORE THAN GENERALLY EXPECTED

#### Closer Co-operation Between Entente Allies Made it Impossible for Italy to Longer Maintain Even an Official Peace with the Huns.

Berlin, Aug. 27, by wireless to Bayville—Italy has declared war on Germany, it was announced officially today. The announcement follows:

"The Italian government has declared that from August 28 it considers itself at war with Germany."

Italy and Germany have been drifting steadily toward war. In fact, Italy's formal declaration amounts to little more than was generally expected. Before Italy took this step Germany exerted every effort to induce her to remain neutral, sending to Rome as ambassador Prince Von Bielow, former chancellor, and one of the ablest statesmen of Germany. The prince succeeded for some time in averting war between Austria and Italy, and when the war broke out Italy took steps toward the preservation of an official peace between Germany and Italy.

On behalf of his government he negotiated with Italy a special agreement, under which, in case of war between Austria and Italy, Germany and Italy pledged themselves to respect the properties and lives of their respective subjects in the other's dominions. This meant for Germany a guarantee of many millions of dollars worth of properties in Italy, and for Italy the safety of 30,000 Italian subjects, who were still living in Germany.

Italy's Allies Forced Her Hand.

According to unofficial reports from Europe, Italy's Allies were dissatisfied with this state of affairs, and at the Paris council of Entente Powers in February asked the Italian representatives why their nation was not at war with Germany.

Italy had already agreed not to conclude a separate peace, and as a result of the Paris conference sanctioned the plan for its formation of a permanent high council of the Entente Powers for the future conduct of the war. The increasing co-operation among the Entente Allies and the necessity for bringing into Serbia Italy's surplus of troops, which could not be employed on other fronts without bringing on war with Germany, gradually brought Italy into such a position that it became evident a declaration of hostilities against Germany was only a matter of time.

German Vessels Requisitioned.

The first outbreak in this direction occurred shortly after the Paris conference, probably as a result of it. On February 29 Italy requisitioned 34 of the 27 German steamships interned in Italian ports, to help meet the pressing needs of the Allies for shipping facilities. Other indications of approaching war were evident. It was reported unofficially that Germany had taken charge of the Dons of Trieste. The commercial agreement providing for mutual respect of the rights of each other's subjects was denounced. The final step was the sending of Italian troops to Saloniki.

Although officially at peace until yesterday, Italy and Germany severed diplomatic relations last year. On the day following Italy's declaration of war against Austria Prince Von Bielow and his staff departed from Rome, and two days later the Italian ambassador at Berlin, Riccardo Bolatti, was withdrawn. It was on account of this fact that Italy adopted the unusual procedure of asking Switzerland to inform Germany of her declaration of war.

Italy's action probably will have little effect on the military situation in the immediate future, although as the war goes on it may have more important bearing. On the Austro-Italian front Italy finds active use for

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