

war. A captured airman stated: 'This offensive is the result of desperation. We must have peace quickly now.'

"Our troops throuth the 23rd and 24th were very hard pressed by the endless onrolling legions, thru whose weary ranks fresh divisions were being continually poured.

"The magnificent defence which the slowly-retiring British line has made thus far may assuredly constitute one of the greatest epics in history.

"I find at the headquarters today unbroken serenity, confidence and satisfaction with the general change in position during Saturday afternoon. In the region of Ham, things temporarily looked ugly when the enemy outflanked us and his cavalry poured out in order to extend an enveloping movement. But vigorous counter-attacks drove the enemy back and restored our position.

"When reading German claims, remember the extent of the battle front, the enemy's unforgettable concentration of guns, which is the greatest ever collected—a vast bea-comb marking the wake of his advance, with the French troops, on our right, after the lengthy rest, at the top of their dashing morale.

"Yesterday there was heroic fighting in the centre of the battle front, where our machine gunners a number of times had to cease killing thru sheer exhaustion. Never have the British armies so superbly met such an overwhelming test. Included are the South African contingents and the Newfoundland battalion, both of which have been fighting magnificently.

"The fourth day of the offensive has failed to bring any surprise, also the long-range guns are doing their utmost day and night."

Artillery is Decreasing.

"Between Lagnicourt and Hermies we were confronted by nine or ten divisions, and 700 guns. The preliminary bombardment on the whole front the first day was the heaviest ever experienced, and ranged to exceptional depth. Probably owing to the German gunning not being so accurate as ours, before the infantry advanced the barrage was lifted a considerable distance, as the Germans will not hug the barrage as the British do. Otherwise, the advance was similar to our attacks, except that the enemy waves were far denser. Since the preliminary bombardment, the enemy artillery has shown a tendency to decrease.

"The situation at present seems to be that we are holding the enemy on virtually the whole front, also he is pressing his attacks very heavily. For example, one village was taken by the Germans, then retaken by us, and retaken again by the Germans, and huge again recaptured by the British. At present it is not definitely known to be occupied by either side. There are no more villages in No Man's Land with pockets of enemy interlocking our posts.

"In the covering actions of brigades and divisions, fought with the view of securing orderly withdrawals, are magnificent episodes. Two battalions sustained flank fights until, when the object had been obtained, they were reduced to 70 apiece. The enemy cavalry was reported at various points, but usually were only seen patrols.

"As yet there are no signs of the German tanks, also picked men have been trained to operate them. The heaviest fighting has been on the flanks of the battle front, the southern flank yielding most ground. The withdrawal in the centre has been very slow and carried out in most places under necessity of maintaining a good line.

"The weather still continues gloriously fine, our airmen playing a brilliant part in the struggle. Also tired, the spirit of the troops defies all language of praise."

Paris Bombarded Again Sunday.

Berlin, via London, March 24.—Paris has been bombarded by German long-distance guns, according to the German official communication issued tonight.

The statement adds that the British, in their retirement, are burning French towns and villages and that between the Somme and the Oise the Germans are still going forward. Enormous quantities of booty have been taken by the Germans, according to the statement, which follows:

"Between the Somme and the Oise our corps are fighting their way forward. Chancy has been taken.

"Our booty in war material is enormous. The English, in their retirement, are burning French towns and villages.

"We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long-distance guns."

Since Saturday

Retirement is orderly, according to plans. British aircraft losses are only 17 machines. Canadians in furious fight beat off a German raid. Furious battle proceeds for possession of Peronne. All reports testify to enormous extent of German losses. Canadians release 5000 drums of gas against Germans at Lens.

French discover monster German gun, firing shells 76 miles to Paris.

British aviators in air combats destroy over 100 German machines.

Germans have thrown half their army on the western front into the fight.

British army takes up new defensive positions behind Peronne and Ham. Front remains impenetrable.

British long-distance-flying men carry out successful raid against Mannheim, starting fire visible 35 miles.

British aviators raid German hangars south of Metz and drop 14 tons of bombs on important points behind German battle lines.

Paris, March 24.—The German "monster cannon" which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, and exactly 122 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall.

The gun bombarded Paris during the greater part of Sunday. The day was ushered in by loud explosions from the ten-inch shells, and immediately the alarm to take cover was sounded. This occurred at 6.55 o'clock, and many persons sought shelter, but greater numbers of them appeared in the streets on their way to the churches, which were almost as well filled as usual.

At first the shells began arriving at intervals of 20 minutes, and the detonations seemed louder than those of Saturday. Their power to disturb the equanimity of the populace, however, seemed less, the people refusing to be distracted from their Sunday habits to any great extent.

For the benefit of that portion of the populace which had been led to believe the Germans had broken thru the line and were bombarding Paris from nearby positions, a semi-official note was issued during the day. This warned the people against believing pessimistic reports.

"The French front is intact," said the note. "Any assertion to the contrary is a lie."

The bombardment of the capital ended around one o'clock, and as late as three o'clock no explosions had been heard for more than an hour. The "clear signal" was sounded at 3.30 o'clock.

In military circles the belief was expressed that the Germans were using two long distance guns. The main axis of the position of one of the guns was established in the St. Gobain forest, which would place it somewhat further south than had been believed, and in the wooded area. The position would be about 70 miles from Paris.

Another hot skirmish occurred on the mountain front, where a group of Austrians succeeded in penetrating an Italian outpost, but were dislodged and driven back with less after lively fighting.

The cannonade along the Piave and the mountain fronts is beginning to show increased activity. The enemy is again resorting to insidious methods of propaganda, and the latest air raids are notable for the dropping of manifestos and peace literature, instead of bombs.

Among the officers brought down in recent raids is Lieut. Buddake of the Austrian imperial guard.

Are the Electric Wiring and Fixture Co. of 261 College street ever going to stop cutting prices? They are not satisfied with wiring occupied houses for electric light at ridiculously low prices, but they are now selling electric fixtures lower than it now costs to make them, and are making no charge for installing.

Stockholm, March 24.—The envoy sent by Minister Morris to General Mannerheim, the white guard leader in Finland, in an effort to make arrangements by which the Americans in southern Finland could get thru the lines of the contending armies, has reported that Gen. Mannerheim refused to consider the requests of the allied envoys. The general offered to send an airplane to drop letters from the allied ministers into the territory, but that they refused to have any parley with the red command, to grant the request of an officer with a bugler to escort the allied emissaries.

Gen. Mannerheim further informed the American, British and French envoys that the military situation was such that it might be a month before they could reach their countrymen in the red guard territory. The envoys returned to Vaasa from the headquar-

ters at Hapaamaki and are awaiting developments there.

The protest against the arrest of Professor Henry C. Emery, the American, and of Englishmen by the Germans on the Aland Islands, has been delivered, but apparently it has not been answered.

The Paris Stock Exchange Undismayed by Bombardment

Paris, March 24.—The stock exchange association has decided that it will not suspend business during raids on the city. The trading will be transferred to the cellar of the house when the alarm signal is given.

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE.

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Canadians Make Biggest Gas Attack in History

Five Thousand Drums of Lethal Gas Hurlled at Enemy's Positions With Most Disastrous Results for Germans.

By W. A. Willison.

CANADIAN Headquarters in France, Thursday, March 21.—via London, March 24.—The greatest projector gas bombardment in the world's history was carried out by the Canadians tonight against enemy positions between Lens and Hill 70. Sharply at 11 o'clock a signal rocket gave notice of its beginning. A moment later over five thousand drums of lethal gas, simultaneously released from projectors, were hurled into enemy territory from the outskirts of Lens to Cite St. Auguste and Bois de Dix Huit. From his front lines and strong points, favoring winds carried the poisonous clouds back upon the enemy's dugouts, supports, reserves, and assembly areas. The whole front was lit up with enemy flares, which could be dimly seen thru the heavy mist, while the men in our lines could hear the enemy's gas alarm and cries of distress from the hostile trenches.

Nine minutes later our field artillery, supported by heavy guns and trench mortars, opened up with a slow bombardment, increasing in violence until, forty minutes later, the enemy positions were swept with a short, intensive, creeping barrage, which raked his forward and rear areas with high explosives.

Casualties Are Heavy.

Caught by our gas, without a moment's warning, and caught again as he was emerging from his shelters by our artillery, the enemy's casualties must have been very heavy, for the effectiveness of our smaller gas operations had been emphatically proved by the evidence of prisoners, and tonight's bombardment was three times greater than anything of its kind ever attempted by us on the western front, and much greater than anything ever launched by the Boche.

Canada in the field has had a mighty revenge for the interminable gas activity of the Hun during the past three weeks, tho the scores for the second battle of Ypres and other reckonings are still to be settled—and will be settled. There is no question today of the deadly superiority of either our gas or gas methods over those of the enemy, while our protective measures are also more effective. Tonight's attack was a drastic indication to the enemy how that superiority is to be used. Forced reluctantly to retaliatory tactics, after the Hun had outraged all the principles of civilized warfare, our scientists and chemists have beaten Germany in her chosen field. Jubilant at first over their use of poison gases, the German forces have turned to regret the day they departed from accepted tactics of warfare.

Information gathered from numerous prisoners proves that the Huns fear the allied gases and gas machinery. Indeed, the German dread has already found expression in an extensive propaganda to secure abandonment of this type of warfare.

Monster Gun Located 76 Miles From Paris

Cannon Which Bombarded Paris Saturday and Sunday Found in St. Gobain Forest, 76 Miles From the City

PARIS, March 24.—The German "monster cannon" which has been bombarding Paris has been located in the forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, and exactly 122 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall.

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SHARP SKIRMISHES ON ITALIAN FRONT

Party of Arditi Made a Surprise Crossing of the River Piave.

Headquarters of the Italian Army in Northern Italy, March 24.—A sharp skirmish occurred on the lower Piave on Friday night when a party of Arditi made a surprise crossing of the river and advanced to the machine gun positions of the enemy trenches. With hand grenades a rush was made on the forward trench which was cleared after a hand-to-hand fight, a number of its occupants being killed. Considerable material was captured and brought back.

Another hot skirmish occurred on the mountain front, where a group of Austrians succeeded in penetrating an Italian outpost, but were dislodged and driven back with less after lively fighting.

The cannonade along the Piave and the mountain fronts is beginning to show increased activity. The enemy is again resorting to insidious methods of propaganda, and the latest air raids are notable for the dropping of manifestos and peace literature, instead of bombs.

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Additional War News on Page Four.

INFERNO OF SHELLS CENTRES IN MORY

Hardly Inch of Ground Escapes From Being Hit by Enemy.

GALLANT DEFENCES Small Garrison of Buffs Hold Old Fort Till Probably Annihilated.

London, Monday morning, March 25.—The Village of Mory, southwest of Cambrai, has been the centre of an inferno of German shells, according to a correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Sunday noon. For two miles behind and in front of the village the land was like plowed ground.

"I don't believe," a British gunner said, "that there was an inch of ground near my guns which was not hit."

Amidst all the gunfire the French inhabitants of the villages behind the line went to Palm Sunday mass with bunches of palms in their hands. A German prisoner said that his company went into action with 250 men and had been reduced to 50 at the time he was captured.

A party of Scottish Highlanders, belonging to the 51st division, was ordered to cover some neighboring troops who were falling back. They had to face heavy odds and came under an appalling gullfire, but they held on until the movement was completed, although more than two-thirds of them fell in the action.

A small garrison of Buffs held the remnants of an old fort on the Oise, north of La Fere. The Germans crossed the river at Mory and La Fere and advanced upon it from two directions. All one morning they were kept at a distance, but by early afternoon the investing force was several times larger than the number of defenders. At four o'clock the Buffs were still holding, although much weaker thru lack of numbers. After that nothing was heard of them. It is not known whether they retired, were forced to surrender or were annihilated.

A battalion of the London regiment, confronting the Germans who tried to cross the Oise at La Fere, fought until 20 were left. A battalion of the Leicestershire regiment made a similar fight by moonlight. Keeping up the fight all night until only a few were left.

London, March 24.—Speaking as the guest of the American Luncheon Club of London on Friday, Sir William Goode, liaison officer of the ministry of food with the United States food administration, said that the food controllers of the United States, Great Britain and Canada had so revolutionized the course of the conduct of transatlantic trade in virtually all food exports with so little friction of publicity that the public had scarcely grasped what had happened.

After pointing out that the effect of an inconclusive peace would be to diminish the food supplies of the allies by forcing them into bitter competition with their present enemies for a share of the world's production, Sir William said the United Kingdom was the only European belligerent country where the stock of cattle had not been seriously diminished. On the other hand, he said, owing to its securing products from West Africa, the outlook for foodstuffs had improved, and the production of food was actually being increased since the declaration of war.

The speaker thought it safe to say that at the end of the war the United Kingdom would be well on the way to recover its position of the '70's and to be on the highroad to independence of imported bread supplies.

REICHSTAG THANKS ARMY

Is Fully Conscious of the Graveness of This Decisive Hour.

London, March 24.—A despatch from Amsterdam says that at the closing of the German Reichstag session the vice-president of the chamber expressed the thanks of the house to the army. All the members of the chamber rose.

The vice-president said the German people were fully conscious of the graveness of this decisive hour, but that they had the fullest confidence in the army and its commanders. He expressed the hope that the events in the east had brought a general peace nearer.

MANUFACTURE DYESTUFFS.

United States Chemists Have Experimented With 600 German Patents.

Washington, March 24.—After months of experimenting with 600 German patents for manufacturing dyestuffs, the proper combinations of the patents for commercial production of dyes has been determined, and the federal trade commission has issued the necessary licenses for use of these patents under the Trading With the Enemy Act.

EXPLOSION IN CHEMICAL PLANT.

Newark, N.J., March 24.—Department of justice agents are investigating the explosion and fire that wrecked six buildings at the Butterworth-Judson chemical plant on the Meadows here tonight. Two men were injured. There are several gas stories afloat, but no cause has been assigned for the fire. The damage could not be ascertained tonight.

PROMINENT RACING MAN DEAD.

Buffalo, March 24.—Rod McMahon, of international prominence on the racing tracks, died here today after a long illness.

KAISER CLAIMS VICTORY IN MESSAGE TO KAISERIN

"Lord Has Gloriously Aided." William Declares "Waris Further Help."

Amsterdam, March 24.—"Well, your majesty, I think we may be well pleased with this initial success." Thus The Berlin Tageblatt quotes Field Marshal von Hindenburg, as saying to Emperor William when the field marshal received the first telegrams concerning the offensive on the western front.

The newspaper adds that the time for the offensive was fixed long ago and that it began at exactly the time set for its commencement, even to the hour.

Another despatch from Berlin says the German press has received the following telegram from Emperor William:

"I am pleased to be able to tell you that, by the grace of God, the battle of Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won. The Lord has gloriously aided. May He further help."

STRINGENT RULES FOR FRENCH PRESS

Paris Government Prohibits Publication of Exaggerated Reports.

Paris, March 22.—The following note has been issued:

"The possibility of an enemy offensive has induced the government to lay down, in advance, stringent rules to which the press must conform during this period, especially at the commencement."

"First, the only accounts of events which may be published are bulletins issued by general headquarters and articles by correspondents accredited to headquarters, which must be used by the ministry of war."

"Second, articles commenting on events must be written in such a way that they contain nothing in contradiction with official bulletins and that their deductions show no exaggeration of any comments made convey no information to the enemy."

"The publication of any news or article not authorized will be vigorously punished."

German Movements Proceed With Marvelous Exactness

London, March 24.—The Berlin Vossische Zeitung's war correspondent, telegraphing from the neighborhood of the Oise, is quoted by the Central News correspondent at Amsterdam as saying:

"All of our movements have taken place with marvellous exactness according to the plans of the master who organized the attack. The English are defending themselves bravely, but the British command was not equal to the attack which, although doubtless foreseen, probably was not expected so early."

SCORE'S WAR SAVING REDUCTIONS.

The earlier Easter is making an earlier spring and creating an earlier demand for new clothes. We have anticipated this "calendar" fact and all month have been emphasizing it as a month of special value in our substantial war saving reductions in prices on one of the finest assortments of the most important of woolsens in suitings, overcoatings, trouseings, and waistcoatings, that we have ever had the good pleasure to present to a discriminating clientele. We make special mention here of the exceptional values being offered in Scotch tweed suitings in a special price range commencing at \$24. In guaranteed Irish blue serge in a special price range commencing at \$24. And besides these we solicit interest in our special Easter week displays of neckwear and other exclusive haberdashery. R. Score & Son, Limited, 77 King street west.

PARIS RAIDED THREE IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS

People Crowd Music Halls and Theatres—Confidence in Safety Shown.

Paris, March 24.—Paris received a third warning of an air attack within 24 hours with unshaken nerves to-night, when an alarm was given at 9 o'clock. The "all clear" signal was given at 10.20, before the population could learn whether the alarm was against an air raid or whether the long-distance German cannon had resumed operations. The people were crowding to music halls and theatres, fully confident nothing further would happen tonight, only to be advised to seek the nearest shelter as quickly as possible.

FLAX SEED FOR IRELAND.

Arrangements Completed for Use of British Stores for use by Canadian Farmers.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, March 24.—Arrangements are being made for two months' lease for Colonel E. St. Wayland to proceed to Canada in connection with the scheme for growing flax seed to be sown in Ireland in the spring of 1919. The war office raw materials department has 400 tons of seed stored in Ireland, under which the Canadian farmers will use this to produce seed for the United Kingdom.

BALLOON BROUGHT DOWN.

American Artillery Destroys Observation Craft of Germans Drifting Over No Man's Land.

With the American Army in France, March 24.—An enemy observation balloon near Mons, Belgium, broke from its mooring this morning and floated toward the American lines. The artillery brought it down in No Man's Land, and then completely destroyed it, firing one hundred shots.

VIOLENT GUNFIRE ON FRENCH FRONT

Paris Reports Considerable Action From Oise to Alsace.

SHOOT DOWN AIRCRAFT

Fifty German Machines Accounted for in Brief Period.

Paris, March 24.—Artillery engagements, which at times have been violent along various sectors of the front, were reported in the statement from the war office last night. The statement read:

"Artillery actions, occasionally of great violence, have occurred south of the Oise, in the region of Rhoinis in Lorraine, between Harraucourt and the Vosges Mountains, and in the heights of Alsace.

"An enemy attack against the Fibrach Wood was a complete failure.

"In the period from March 11 to March 20 twenty-six German airplanes and one captive balloon were shot down by our aviators. Nineteen enemy machines were severely hit and brought down within the enemy lines. On March 22 five German airplanes were shot down or gravely damaged by our aerial units.

"Bombardment of Rear. On the night of March 22-23 our raiding squadrons dropped 16,000 kilograms (35,270 pounds) of projectiles upon settlements, cantonments and the rear of the enemy zone. It was ascertained that the damage done was very great.

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"Belgian communication: In the course of the past two days the activity of the enemy artillery had been manifested principally upon our zone by the bombardment of our communications in the vicinity of Adirke, Furnes and Loos, also upon the cantonments in the region of Nieuport, Itevinguek and Polinechove. We have carried out reprisals upon enemy installations and cantonments at Keyem, St. Pierre Capelle and Liddelkerke and against numerous enemy batteries.

"On the night of March 21 a German airplane was fired upon by our artillery and forced to descend behind our lines. Two officers and one sub-officer were made prisoner.

"Eastern theatre, March 22: Enemy reconnaissance were repulsed in the region of the Oise and in the Cerna bend sector. French aviators have carried out bombardments in import in Ontario give, the campaign in the maritime provinces has been postponed until April 7 to 14, when it is anticipated that 3000 will be obtained in Quebec, the campaign will be held April 1.

Only One "BROMO QUININE" To get the genuine, call for full name, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. Look for Signature of E. W. GROVE. Cures a Cold in One Day, 25c.

ONTARIO HAS BIG LEAD IN ENROLMENT

Boys Respond Splendidly to Call for Soldiers of the Soil.

The return to hand up to yesterday giving the results of the enrolment week for the S. O. S., show that between 18,000 and 19,000 boys have registered, and ninety-five per cent. of boys from 15,000 to 19,000 in nineteen in British Columbia the figures to hand show that 94 have already enrolled, and it is estimated that the total will reach 3000. In Saskatchewan 976 have already enrolled, and the estimate set at 1600. In Manitoba the estimate that was set of 1500 has already been reached. The campaign in the maritime provinces has been postponed until April 7 to 14, when it is anticipated that 3000 will be obtained in Quebec, the campaign will be held April 1.

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Sum Today

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