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No Decision for Germans!

Week End Situation in Allies Favour

Enemy Flung Back With Terrible Losses. Great Activity at Kiel May Mean Big Naval Raid.

OFFENSIVE LULLING.

LONDON, April 14. (Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Reuter's dispatch from British headquarters in France, Saturday, April 14, reads: The general position in the West seems to justify the view that the Germans will achieve more towards a decision in Flanders than they have done in Picardy. They have overrun a lot of territory and scored a series of tactical achievements, but the strategic situation in Flanders remains unchanged, for so long as the Allied armies continue to face the enemy with an unbroken line of men and guns, there is no reason to believe that the enemy will be able to achieve any more than they have done in Picardy. The situation at the week-end is still improving in our favor. Although the Germans delivered several very attacks to-day at various points, all were repulsed. Not only the enemy made no progress anywhere, but the retaking of Neuve Eglise by our troops may force him to relax his effort in the direction of Arras. There is a tendency to speak of a lull in the offensive which really means that the Germans are weary. They are fighting desperately with a mechanical bravery and discipline. It is also apparent that the enemy is hoping to ensnare the big forest of Denleup by thrusting through Hazebrouck, and thence onwards, but the latest intelligence shows that he is progressing very little in this direction. Our resistance at certain points along the line of advance is holding the plan. For the first time since the capture of Neuve Eglise last week, the enemy maintained a heavy position around the Hilac, gaining a few yards at a few points east of the village. Heavy attacks south of the line extending towards Merris were continued since morning.

ALL ATTACKS REPULSED.

LONDON, April 14. (Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Reuter's correspondent wiring from British headquarters in France this morning says: A bitter east wind is blowing in Flanders and visibility is very low. The situation is generally unchanged. The enemy continues to dig fresh trenches and we are likewise steadily increasing our forces. Consequently the battle is more stationary, although as intense as ever. Yesterday morning the Germans effected a heavy attack against a point of front they have been attacking continuously and unsuccessfully for the past two days, undoubtedly expecting that the British were worn out and that another smashing blow would be delivered. The attack was repulsed, but fresh reinforcements were sent to the front. The enemy's methods of the enemy attacks are absolutely inevitable in his loss of momentum, for shock tactics cannot be maintained in succession for long periods, and as the line is killed off the others are by the sheer weight of the attack. Frequently his advance was checked by the barrier of our corpses. Our rear guard has been skilful and valiant in its defense, while the machine guns have poured a series of little streams of bullets into the

enemy until their ammunition has been exhausted. The main body has slowly fallen back upon prepared positions. Each backward step has been made perfectly methodically and we have exacted the full price for what we have yielded. Never have troops fought with such superb courage and tenacity as our men are displaying. They have got their backs to the wall indeed, and General Haig's assurance of French support in full strength has vastly heartened them. The British have learned to value the fighting qualities of the Fritz. The French are indeed magnificent, their morale is conspicuously one of irresistible confidence. The enemy is apparently endeavouring to gain command of the line of communications between Bailleul and the north. Yesterday morning the enemy attempted to advance on a thousand yard front south of the Lys, but was smothered by our artillery. Another advance from Merris was likewise flung back while an intense bombardment heralding enemy infantry between Wytschaete and Kemmel ridge came to naught by our concentrated retaliatory barrage. Our withdrawal near Locon towards the LaBasse canal was to more favorable defensive positions. I judge that the most critical period of the battle was on Friday last. It was at a stage then that had the enemy pressed his advantage the consequences would have been serious. His failure to improve his opportunity was presumably because he couldn't. Since then there has been a steady improvement in the general position.

GERMANY'S EFFORTS.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 13. (By Associated Press.)—All efforts of the German high command for the present are directed toward the systematic dislocation of the British armies. Having failed to break the communication between the British and French, the enemy has turned his sole attention northward, and it appears likely that the Germans will continue to throw all their available strength in that direction. The enemy's plan seems to be to deliver hammering blows at different points between the Somme and the sea with the desire of bringing about a British evacuation of the entire northern district of France. Six German armies are participating in the battle raging along the front. They are as follows: Von Arnim's, Von Quast's, Otto Von Below's, Von Marwitz's, Von Hutier's and Boehm's. On the east of the Oise the Germans owing to their possession of interior lines of communication inside the German semi-circle formed by the front, are able to move their strategic reserves with greater facility than the Allies, and thus by surprise attacks, with rapidly concentrated superior forces, can compel the retirement of the allies at any point. Hitherto, owing to the great tenacity of the Allies, the enemy has been unable to carry out his plans of advance according to his pre-arranged programme. This has been learned from orders captured on prisoners who have fallen into Allied hands in considerable numbers these latter days during close fighting. These orders foresaw the capture of the line along

the Lys River on April 9th, while Bethune should have been taken on April 10th, but it was saved by the wonderful defence of the British at Givenchy. There is a remarkable parallel between the present battle and the operations after the 'battle of the Marne, when there was a race toward the sea between the Germans who were endeavoring to reach and seize the Channel ports, and the Allies who succeeded in preventing them. The British on this occasion have the task of stopping the German push, and although forced under overwhelming strength of the German armies to recede some distance, they are presenting a stern resistance to a further advance. On the French portion of the battle line the principal fighting is progressing on the sectors toward Amiens, where the Germans front in trying to pierce the line to obtain the moral victory of taking Amiens, but they are unable to overcome the opposition of the French. During last night the battle here never ceased a moment, enemy assaults being immediately followed by French counter-attacks which resulted in the capture of the important village of Hangard, with a number of prisoners.

GERMANS SUFFERING BIG LOSSES.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 12. (By Associated Press.)—Between Bailleul and Neuve Eglise the British assumed the offensive during the night and after bitter fighting pushed the German lines back considerably. Neuve Eglise itself has been the centre of a sanguinary struggle. The enemy last night drove forward here and captured the village but a counter attack early to-day brought it back into British hands. An engagement was in progress here this afternoon and at least four German attacks were repulsed. The northern end of the battlefield naturally continued to be the centre of interest, but on the south the combined British and French operations last night gave the enemy a hard knock. Hangard was recaptured in a dash by the Allied troops and a footing was gained in a cove just north of this place. In the north the enemy is making desperate efforts to get the domination of the railway so that troops, guns and supplies can be rushed forward. The whole trend of the operations yesterday and last night was aimed at the capture of Bailleul, Hazebrouck, Morbecque, Steenbecque and Aire, all of them important railway towns. The ground east of this sector is very low and wet, and is unfavorable for the rapid movement of heavy guns. Work on the Armentieres-Bailleul railway has been rushed furiously by the enemy since the occupation of the former towns, and artillery is being moved forward as rapidly as possible. In the meantime the enemy has been having a hard time with his transport. British aviators yesterday dropped many tons of bombs on the packed roads leading from Estaires to Morville, causing heavy casualties and much confusion. Hostile pilots who attempted to drive the British fliers back along the front fared badly. Official figures are not available but the correspondent is confident in stating that not less than 49 German planes were shot out of the air and

crashed to the ground yesterday lying along the sector roughly between Wytschaete and a little south of Armentieres. The German casualties yesterday and last night were very heavy. They can hardly be avoided in following out the method of massed attack being employed by the enemy, who must be given the credit for showing great discipline and sticking powers in the face of terrible punishment from machine guns and artillery. Yesterday afternoon a heavy attack north of Locon forced the British to give some ground. Again last night at the right the Germans surged forward east of St. Venant with numbers the British fell back toward St. Venant, fighting doggedly all the way against the closely pressing enemy. A sanguinary battle was proceeding to-day east of St. Venant with the British making a determined stand. During the night the British counter-attacked west of Steenwerck, west of Armentieres, and recaptured LaBasse, after hard fighting. The German attack about Givenchy was being pressed to-day by some nine divisions. There has been virtually no cessation in the fighting here since the beginning of the battle Tuesday. Thus far the British have maintained a stone wall defence, against which the Germans have flung themselves with heavy losses. To-day the casualty list of the attackers was swelled appallingly as the British artillery and machine guns pounded concentration points and troops advancing in close formation. The work of the British gunners at Givenchy has been noteworthy. In the first day when the Germans swept forward in masses and the situation was very grave, many artillerymen worked for hours

shooting point blank all at close range of 200 yards, and held the enemy off for a considerable time before he was compelled to fall back. The British troops who have been making such a gallant stand just above Givenchy also distinguished themselves by holding the Germans up for hours at a certain point in the battle before Cambrai on November 30th, when the enemy counter-attacked. It became known to-day that of the 750 Germans captured near Givenchy last Tuesday, 300 were rounded up while devoting their energies to looting a British canteen.

meantime other formations flying at a greater height engaged the enemy planes, which were extremely lively in this sector. Forty German machines were brought down and twenty others were brought down out of control. Two were brought down by gunfire. Twelve of ours are missing. incessant bombing was carried out between dark and dawn. Over twenty-two tons were dropped on the Douai railway station and roads leading to the battlefield in the neighborhood of Estaires.

LATEST BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, April 14.

(Official)—An attack commenced by the enemy this morning in the neighborhood of Bailleul was repulsed by our troops, and another hostile attack, which developed later in the day in the neighborhood of Merris, was equally unsuccessful. During the morning hostile infantry also attempted an attack northwest of Merris, but was caught and dispersed by our artillery. The hostile artillery has been more active to-day in the neighbourhood of Albert. On the remainder of the British front there was nothing of special interest.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, April 14.

(Official)—Atmospheric conditions were favorable and a great concentration of our machines was effected on the battlefield. A large number of low-flying machines were employed in bombing and sweeping with machine gun fire roads packed with enemy troops. Thirty-six tons of bombs were dropped and over 110,000 rounds of ammunition were fired. In the

only a motor boat. LONDON, April 14. With reference to the German official statement claiming that in the attack on the coast of Flanders, a British torpedo boat was set afire and captured by the Germans, the Admiralty says that only one small motor boat is missing.

ONLY A MOTOR BOAT.

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Strike Ended.

As exclusively mentioned in Saturday's Telegram, the settlement of the strike between the N. I. W. A. and the Reid Mfd. Co. was finalised during the afternoon of that day and this morning the "men out" returned to work. Neither side, so far, desires to make known the terms of settlement, but no matter what arrangements have been made, this decision will be received with relief, and congratulations are due all round.

NOTICE.—Correspondents are requested to accompany contributions with their REAL NAMES, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The editor refuses to accept any matter unless this rule is adhered to.

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