GRENADE ATTACK BY FRENCH WINS BACK PART OF TRENCHES BETWEEN BETHINCOURT AND HILL 265

Curtain of Fire Checks Attack on Outskirts of Haucourt and Drives Enemy Back to Trenches, Leaving Many Dead Behind—Mine Crater Positions South of St. Eloi and Defended by Canadians Captured by Germans—Russians Enter Enemy's Trenches South of Dvinsk.

The region northwest of Verdun around Haucourt, and between Bethincourt and Hill 265, is still the scene of sanguinary encounters between the French and the Germans.

Continuing their vigorous counter-attacks on the trenches taken from them by the Germans between Bethincourt and Hill 265, the French, with the use of hand grenades, have recaptured additional portions of their lost ground, and in addition made progress in communicating trenches.

Around Haucourt the Germans launched a violent attack against the French, previously having prepared the way by a heavy bombardment lasting several hours. The French, however, through the use of their curtain of fire and rapid fire guns, put down the attack and forced the Germans to retreat, leaving numerous dead on the ground, as they made their way back to their trenches.

On the remainder of the front in France and in Belgium artillery engagements alone have been in progress.

Russians Enter Enemy's Trenches.

On the eastern front there has been a continuation of the lively artillery engagements in the lake region south of Dvinsk, especially about Lake Narocz, where the Russians succeeded in occupying portions of German trenches. The artillery of both sides also has been busy around Riga and Friedrichstadt, and in East Galicia.

The Austrians have recaptured from the Italians a ridge north of Monte Cristallel, and in the operation made a number of prisoners and captured two machine guns. Attacks by the Italians in large force north of the Sugana Valley were repulsed, according to Vienna.

Flood conditions along the Tigris river are again hampering the British force, which is endeavoring to make its way up the river to the relief of the British besieged in Kut-el-Amara. In the Caucasus region, near the Black Sea coast, the Russians have captured Turkish positions along the Karadere river, and inland along the Upper Tchoruh river continue their progress against the Ottomans, despite the cold and heavy snow.

French Gain Ground in Counter-Attack

Bulletin—Paris, April 7, 11.10 p. m.—The French, in a grenade attack, have retaken portions of the trenches captured from them by the Germans between Bethincourt and Hill 265, northwest of Verdun, and made progress in communicating trenches in the same region, according to the French official communication issued tonight. A German attack over a front of about a mile and a quarter around Harcourt was repulsed.

"To the west of the Meuse, after a violent bombardment lasting several hours, the enemy directed against our positions to the south and on the eastern outskirts of the village of Haucourt a strong attack on a front of about two kilometres.

"Stopped by our curtain of fire and the intense fire of our mitrailleuses, the Germans were unable to reach their goal and were forced to retreat to their trenches, leaving on the ground numerous dead.

"To the southeast of Bethincourt we made through the use of grenades, some progress in the communicating trenches and the element of trenches captured last night by the enemy between Bethincourt and Hill 265.

Rejuvenating French Army.

Paris, April 7.—The age limits of colonels and general officers in the French army were discussed today in the Chamber of Deputies on a motion to reduce the limit to fifty-nine, sixty and sixty-two years respectively. The motion was referred to a committee.

In the course of the debate Gen. Roques, the minister of war, said that the ages of generals of armies and of army corps now range from forty-nine to sixty-four years. The army, he said, is on the way of a complete rejuvenation. This remark was greeted by applause.

Deputy Andre Maginot, who spoke with difficulty owing to wounds received at the front, was also applauded on the statement that "after twenty months of war we are justified in asking the chief command for more activity and more warlike energy."

British Report.

London, April 7.—The British official communication issued tonight says:

"Yesterday at St. Eloi the enemy succeeded in regaining the ground we captured March 27. The fighting continues.

BRITISH SCORE NEW SUCCESS IN EAST AFRICA

Cavalry in Surprise Attack Drive Germans from Mountain Stronghold in the Arusha Region.

London, April 7.—Another success for the British in East Africa is reported by Lieut. Gen. Jan C. Smuts, commander of the British expedition operating against the Germans in the following despatch:

"As the result of a movement commenced on the afternoon of Monday by mounted troops, under Gen. Vandeventer, successfully surprised a German force with machine guns stationed in a mountain stronghold in the Arusha region. This force was surrounded during the course of Tuesday and surrendered the next morning."

New Under Secretary for War in Italy.

Rome, April 7, via Paris, 4.48 p. m.—Gen. Alfieri has been appointed under secretary of state for war, succeeding Major Gen. Elia, resigned.

BELGIAN WOMAN EXECUTED BY THE GERMANS

Tried by Court Martial for Treason—Alleged She Conducted Information Bureau in Interests of Allies.

Amsterdam, Holland, April 7, via London (2.41 p. m.)—The assertion is made by the Echo Belge that Miss Gabrielle Petit, of Molenbeek, Belgium, has been put to death by German after trial by court martial on a charge of treason. It is alleged she conducted an information bureau in the interest of Germany's enemies.

The newspaper also states that Louise De Bettignies, of Lille, has been sentenced to death, but that the sentence has been commuted to imprisonment for life.

Another woman, Marie Van Houtte, the newspaper says, has been sentenced to imprisonment for fifteen years.

CANADIAN EXPRESS OFFICE AT NEWCASTLE ENTERED BY BURGLARS

Newcastle, April 7.—The Canadian Express Office here was burglarized Wednesday night, a large sum of money being taken. One of our dry goods stores was entered twice this week.

MAJOR LAUGHLIN IS BEREAVED OF FATHER

Special to The Standard.

St. Stephen, N. B., April 7—This community lost one of its oldest residents and a highly esteemed citizen in the death of Henry Laughlin, which occurred at his home this afternoon. He was eighty-two years of age and had spent practically all his life in this place. He was an elder of the Presbyterian church for many years. He was probably the oldest member of the local Orange lodge and had been prominent in the order for many years. His wife survives, three sons, Major W. H. Laughlin of the 104th Battalion, in charge of the company at Woodstock, Frederick and Arthur of St. Stephen, and two daughters, Mrs. John Logan and Mrs. J. Robert Holley, both of this town. The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon.

USE OF MEXICAN RAILWAYS WAS NOT GRANTED U. S. TROOPS

Queeretaro, Mexico, April 7.—The Mexican government has not given the American government permission to use Mexican railways for any purpose whatever, said Gen. Candido Aguilar, Mexican minister of foreign relations, following a meeting of the Carranza cabinet today.

HUN LOSSES AT VERDUN TO DATE 200,000 MEN

A Conservative Estimate Based on Reliable and Verified Reports.

WHOLE REGIMENTS ALMOST WIPED OUT

Reinforcements Thrown Into Gaps in Enormous Numbers and Used up as Fast as Put in Line.

Paris, April 7, 3.20 p. m.—The German losses before Verdun, up to the present time, have reached the huge total of 200,000 men, one of the greatest battle losses in the whole range of warfare, according to estimates made public here today from a semi-official source—the result of careful inquiry made in the highest quarters in which the figures have been rigorously checked and verified.

Documentary and verbal testimony gathered and authenticated permit the giving of precise details concerning the losses suffered by the Germans and by us on the Verdun front, says the semi-official communication given to the Associated Press. "During the period from Feb. 21, when the battle began, to April 1, it is known that two army corps, namely the Third and the Eighteenth, have been withdrawn from the front, having lost in the first attacks at least one third of their forces. They have re-appeared since, and have again suffered like losses.

"The German reinforcements are practically used up as fast as they are put in line. The total effective of the eighteenth corps have in this way lost 17,000, and the third corps has lost 22,000 men.

"Concerning the One Hundred and Twenty-first Division, which took possession of North Vaux about March 12, we have precise information. More than one half of the Seventh Regiment and its reserves was put out of action by our machine guns in the ineffectual attack against the slopes of the fort. The Sixteenth Regiment met similar losses, of which the total reached sixty per cent. of the regiment's effectives.

"The 19th German Infantry had already suffered similar losses in attacking the village of Vaux on March 9. Its 12th company was surprised and annihilated. In entering the village houses its first battalion was reduced sixty per cent. Three regiments of the 11th Bavarian Division, which led the attack on the Malancourt and Avocourt woods on March 20 and 22, were each reduced by one half. Their losses varied between fifty and sixty per cent. The same is true of the losses of the Fourth Regiment of the Second Division of Landwehr, engaged under similar conditions.

Only Current Actual Losses.

"The foregoing are only losses during actual attack, and do not include the losses of regiments in the trenches or in reserve under the fire of our cannon. They are solely the current actual losses. We know that certain German units have very high current losses; that is to say, losses from artillery fire, when no action of the infantry was in progress. We cite, for instance, the 37th Regiment of infantry, which was surprised by our shell fire while on the march to the trenches. It lost about five hundred men, and from this fact was so reduced that it could not, on March 10, take part in the attack on the village of Vaux, as was ordered, in place of the 19th Regiment, which had been decimated by our machine guns.

"Summarizing, during the forty days from Feb. 21 to April 1, the Germans had on the Verdun front, from Avocourt to Eparges, exactly 239 battalions of infantry, representing a minimum of 1,075 companies of infantry, besides 33 battalions of engineers in three companies each, which give an aggregate of 3,144 companies, fully reinforced, the companies varying from 260 to 280 men. The assaulting army therefore represented at least 296,000 infantry men.

"Since Feb. 21, the reinforcements have been frequent and heavy. At least eighty battalions have been sent to the rear to be reconstituted. Others have received their reinforcements on the field. It is, therefore, nearly 450,000 infantry which have appeared upon the firing line, and this estimate is even under the mark.

"Declarations gathered from prisoners indicate at least one third of the total force engaged as the minimum losses of the German infantry up to April 1. It is, therefore, 150,000 men who have fallen solely upon the first battle line.

"But the German losses do not stop there. In a modern battle long range guns reach far behind the first line, striking lines of communication and the quarters of troops. As the range of the artillery lengthens, the zone of destruction behind the battle line increases proportionately. The German artillery, literally piled up in the woods, suffered losses comparable with those of the infantry. Finally, our heavy artillery reached supply camps and innumerable convoys in the rear.

"We arrive thus, taking only the most moderate estimate, at upwards of 200,000 men as the figures of our enemy's losses before Verdun."

NO-DECISION BOUT.

Milwaukee, April 7.—Champion lightweight boxer Freddie Welsh had a slight edge on points in a 10-round no-decision bout in Milwaukee with Ritchie Mitchell tonight.

MERELY DESIGN TO NOURISH HATRED OF GREAT BRITAIN

German Chancellor's Speeches Cunning Blends of Bombast and Peaceful Protestations, Says Lord Cecil—Proposals Made Last Year Solely that Von Hollweg Could Refer Virtually to them Today.

London, April 7.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of war trade, made a sharp reply tonight to the speech in the Reichstag of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor. Conversing with American correspondents on behalf of the foreign office, Lord Robert said the suggestion that Germany might abandon her submarine warfare if Great Britain relaxed her food blockade was hardly likely to be entertained by Great Britain, which had no faith that any promise made by Germany regarding submarine warfare would be kept.

"Germany slackened her submarine warfare for some time when the operations of the British navy deprived her of the necessary number of submarines," said Lord Robert, "but now has begun it again. I am convinced that Germany cannot be trusted to keep any promise."

Referring to Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg's statement that Great Britain alone is responsible for the continuation of the war, and that he made proposals last September to which he had received no reply, Lord Robert said:

"It may be well to make a clear answer to this. By singling out separate powers among the Allies the chancellor endeavors to sow mischief and distrust among them, but he has failed. The Allies stand together, and have pledged themselves to make peace in common. The chancellor knows this well. He knows, too, and the people of Germany whom he deludes should know, that nothing in any public speech he makes can ever form the basis of peace overtures.

"Poland is to be free, but not for the Poles, for their country is reserved for the noble function of a buffer between Germany and Russia, delicately colonized by Germans.

But One Answer.

"And Belgium: There is to be a new Belgium. Listen to the chancellor setting the oppressed Flemish free by oratory, after they for months have refused to be set free by the mild rule of the German Kommandatore in Belgium, or to swallow the precious Flemish university, which the German government has tried to force down their throats.

"To such peace proposals there is only one answer. We refuse. We are fighting for the old Belgium. That which has been broken shall be restored, and with the nation and government who broke it we shall never have peace so long as they have the effrontery to claim the right of playing providence with the pious.

"The chancellor invokes the protection of nationality in Poland and Belgium. There are two principles of nationality. One proclaims the absolute right of each man to free self-development and association with his fellows, and looks to the exercise of that right through the establishment and steady development of democratic government within each country.

"The other summons all the professors from all the universities, covers its political doctrine in a cloud of ethnological theories, sends out its secret service agents to foment insurrection, and stimulate bloodshed, and, in due course, reaps the rewards of its efforts in the establishment of hate and tyranny, fringed by a buffer borderland of anarchy.

"The first principle is the endeavor of this country; the second is the ambition of Germany. We know it of old. We encountered it in Napoleon, and it was Canning who fought hyper-critical nationalism to death, and who afterwards, in the name of true liberty, called in the new world to redress the balance of the old.

"So Germany and Austria are to solve the problem of Poland. A true, comfortable prospect for the Poles if Germany wins! Suwalki there will be no dearth of German professors to prove that it is Lithuanian, and not Polish."

BILL TO AMEND RAILWAY ACT INTRODUCED

Railway Board's Approval will be Necessary Before New Lines are Built.

ANOTHER LIBERAL CHARGE FALLS FLAT.

Sir Sam Hughes Did Not Leave for England Last Year on June 3 but on July 3rd.

Ottawa, April 7.—The acting minister of railways, Hon. Dr. Reid, has given notice of a bill to amend the railway act which will provide in effect that hereafter when any new railway lines are to be constructed the board of railway commissioners will first have to give approval of the project.

The legislation is copied in the main from new clauses recommended by the committee of the House which considered consolidation of the railway act two years ago. The report of that committee has not yet been acted upon owing to the decision of the government to leave over until after the war legislation of this character. The amendment to the act will provide that no railway shall commence the construction of any line authorized by parliament until the plans have been approved by the railway commission which is also given authority to require such changes or alterations as it deems expedient. A further clause says: "If the board deems that the construction of such railway upon the proposed location or upon any portion thereof is not in the public interest, it shall refuse approval to the whole or of such portion."

It is also provided that the board may require the company to submit any information deemed advisable before allowing the undertaking to proceed.

Another Liberal Bubble Bursts.

Hon. A. E. Kemp, at the opening of the House, corrected an error in his answer given to a question in the House on Wednesday. In that reply it was stated that Sir Sam Hughes left Canada for England in 1915 on June 3, and yesterday it was pointed out that the Minister of Militia had on behalf of the British government, ratified some contracts on June 19. The acting minister of militia explained that the date upon which Sir Wm Otter, and departed for Europe last year was really July 3.

Hon. Robert Rogers replied to an enquiry by Mr. W. A. Buchanan based upon the report that the government was going to allow the employment of interned aliens as farm laborers in the west. The minister of public works said that Sir Wm Otter, who had charge of internment camps throughout the country, had left for Winnipeg to consult the commandants of a number of camps. Gen. Otter would discuss the manner in which it would be possible to provide for the release of such prisoners and would devise means whereby the scheme could be carried out to the satisfaction of his employer and to the people of the west.

The House then went into committee again on Sir Thomas White's bill to levy a tax on business profits. Some minor changes were made after considerable discussion of the details of the bill. The rate of interest to be paid on tax arrears was changed from 10 to 7 per cent. In connection with unsuccessful appeals a provision requiring the appellant to pay the whole cost was changed to make it optional for the board of referees to require him to pay part of the cost. It was also provided that in the case of successful appeals the board might recommend that the costs be paid by the crown. The bill was reported by the committee and stands for third reading.

During consideration of the estimates for the department of Indian affairs at the evening session A. K. Maclean, George Kyte and other Nova Scotia members criticized the appointment of Mr. C. Foster, former secretary of the Conservative Association of Halifax, as a superintendent of Indian agency at a salary of $1,800 per annum. They claimed that Foster had never done anything to earn his salary before he enlisted to go to the front.