

## BRITISH BATTLES FOR CAMBRAI

British Forces Within Three Miles of Cambrai

History Made by Irish Troops During Offensive

Hot Battle Raging in Mountains of North Italy

### Most Strenuous Fighting of Week Now Raging

#### Byng's Troops Less Than Three Miles From Cambrai, and Bent on Destroying Military Value of Town

By Courier Leased Wire. Reinforced by divisions from other sectors of the western front, the Germans are resisting desperately the British advance on Cambrai. Around Fontaine Notre Dame, less than three miles west of Cambrai and the Broulon Wood close by, the most strenuous fighting has occurred with the British making progress.

General Byng is combining his attacks with consolidated work and the British are firmly established in their new positions, which give opportunity to destroy the usefulness of Cambrai as a supply centre as well as a starting place for a drive either north behind the Drocourt-Queant line or west against Cambrai. Heavy fighting is taking place at Moeuvres, three miles west, southwest of Fontaine Notre Dame and at Grevecoeur about three miles south of Cambrai, at the other end of the wedge driven across the Hindenburg line Tuesday and Wednesday. The Broulon wood is the dominating hill to the west of Cambrai and the Germans have put up a strong resistance here as well as at Fontaine Notre Dame, which flanks the wood to the west.

#### SIR ROBERT BORDEN

In the City a Short While This Morning Grants Interview — Emphatic with Regard to Needed Farm Help

Sir Robert Borden and Hon. Mr. Rowell, passed through Brantford this morning on their way from Stratford. They remained at the Brantford depot for some minutes. Sir Robert is looking remarkably fit, and smilingly accorded a Courier man the chance for an interview. He reported that in all his experience, he had never seen such enthusiasm as that manifested at all of the meetings which he had addressed. Hundreds had been turned away at every gathering, and in Stratford last night, despite the cold, many by ladders and other means, listened at open windows. Sir Robert said that reports from all over the Dominion were most encouraging. Referring to the resentment which had been aroused by some Military Tribunals with reference to the taking of farmers' sons and farm help, who were needed on the land, the Premier said that such should not have been done. He was very emphatic on this point. Production was of vital importance, and needed help must not be touched. He referred to the fact that there was an appeal remedy and said matters would be straightened out.

#### WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Nov. 24.—The disturbance which passed over the great lakes on Thursday now covers New Brunswick while the marked cold wave is still centered north of Lake Superior. Heavy rain has fallen over the Maritime provinces and some more snow has occurred in Quebec. Fresh north to west winds, local snow flurries, but generally fair and quite cold to-day and on Sunday.



#### Battle Raging More Violently Than Before in Italian Mountains--Enemy Losses Heavier Than Defenders'

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Nov. 23.—(By the Associated Press)—The battle of the mountains is raging with unexampled violence. The Italians again hold Monte Tomba and Monte Persica positions which they lost last night. The losses have been very great, but the enemy's far exceed those of the Italians. In one section where there were thirty officers, twenty-seven were killed or wounded, but the remaining three fought the battle of victory.

The mountain batteries had been secured in mountain emplacements and as the fight ebbed and flowed over these positions, the Italians not only brought back the guns but even the wheels and the limbers, their pride not permitting a vestige to fall into the hands of the enemy. The final charge of the day came at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The enemy had struck his greatest blow in the earlier part of the day and the fierce attack lasted three quarters of an hour. The whole field was swept by artillery fire and the ground was strewn with dead.

It was amid this welter of bodies and debris that the Italian lines were reformed; they moved forward steadily and irresistibly until the disputed ground was retaken, except at one point, where the struggle still goes on. In this last desperate charge the officers and men were eager to advance, preferring death to being made prisoners. The enemy losses must be very heavy, but he is bringing forward a steady stream of reserves.

The first army also is sustaining a heavy fight west of Brenta River, where the enemy rush has been repelled by the splendid resistance of the Italians. The Count of Turin, commander of the Italian cavalry in the recent retreat, has given out a written review of the deeds performed by his men. Many instances of individual daring are recorded. A corporal of the Florence lancers was ordered to explore a zone near Cividale. Going forward he saw a large party of Italians held prisoner by the enemy. He returned and gathered a force of cavalry, which released the imprisoned party and brought them back in another case, Fiedmonte cavalry, after being surrounded, broke through the enemy lines, but the colonel commanding failed to escape. He was the only man left inside the enemy circle, and he was seen to take his stand against a wall, probably preferring death to being made a prisoner.

The fate of Caserta cavalry, which dismounted and fought afoot, and of their fellow dragoons also is recounted, making this recital one of the most stirring chapters of the recent operations. A high commanding officer on the field, has summarized the fury of the present battles by declaring he could not say who to commend for bravery, as the distinction would require a medal for the entire force engaged. A distinctive ribbon for bravery, he said, would stretch across the Italian front.

keeping the Germans nervous by putting down smoke barrages and employing gas. The enemy had become so accustomed to this that the British started a flurry of gunfire at dawn Tuesday, the Germans thought it was more of the same thing and they were caught unawares. The greatest danger which the attackers feared, was the possibility of mines being blown up and they knew this must be avoided. Accordingly they took along a body of expert tunnel men. By good fortune they mastered the secret of the mines and cut the lead wires. This enabled the British infantry, which swarmed

### Irish Troops Fought Way up Canal Du Nord to Smash Hindenburg Line

#### Main Attack of British Forces in Opening of Tuesday's Offensive Was Along Bank of Canal--Irish Ulsterites Maintained Reputation For Valor and Bombed Way on With Grim Determination

By Courier Leased Wire. British Army Headquarters in France, Friday, Nov. 23.—(By the Associated Press)—The main attack on the opening of the offensive Tuesday was along the western bank of the canal Du Nord, which runs almost due north and south from a point a little west of Havrincourt. The main Hindenburg line trenches were built along this waterway and the British had to fight their way up the big ditch. There was intense hard work almost from the start, as the Ulsterites who undertook this task, got in among the German defences. Because of the secret nature of the attack, no artillery could be used to cut the tremendously strong lines of barbed wire in front of the trenches, and tanks were not operating in this section. Therefore it was necessary for the Irishmen to charge the entanglements and bomb them to pieces in order to force their way through. It was a big undertaking, for the Irish came under concentrated rifle and machine gun fire as soon as they began an advance, but they maintained their reputation for valor and bombed their way with such grim determination that they drove an attacking wedge into the trench system near Havrincourt. Northwest of the town is a high bank on the west of the canal. The elevation was strongly fortified with dugouts, and there was a great concentration of machine guns. The British had no alternative but to charge the position up the slopes, and this they did. The crest was gained in the face of a heavy fire and desperate bayonet fighting followed. The Ulsterites hurled themselves on the Germans with such fury that

the latter were compelled to desert their machine guns and abandon the site, and many of them were shot as they fled northward along the canal. A large number of prisoners were captured in the dugouts on the hill and beside the canal. This fight occurred at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning. In the meantime, German machine guns on the eastern side of the canal were giving much trouble, and as soon as the high bank was captured, British engineers began building bridges over the waterway in order to give a crossing to the infantry. They undertook to have these bridges completed by three o'clock, and by a remarkable piece of work the task was accomplished. Previously they had repaired a causeway in the same vicinity, and the troops were able to get over the canal to the eastern bank. The Irish infantry was then advancing northward on both sides of the canal with the main Cambrai-Bapaume highway as their immediate objective. During the afternoon the Irish were held up temporarily, because of the shortage of ammunition near a sunken road southwest of Graucourt, where the Germans were established in considerable force. This position was rendered doubly strong by a machine gun concentration north of Graucourt, which could sweep the British lines near the canal. The ammunition came up and the British charged forward again. They overcame the resistance south of the Cambrai-Bapaume highway. The Germans then were firing with machine guns down across the Cambrai road. Hand-to-hand fighting occurred at positions below the road, but the Germans finally were forced

to withdraw. Dugouts lighted by electricity were found in the chain of defenses along the highway. By 6.15 o'clock in the evening the Irish had crossed the Cambrai-Bapaume highway on both sides of the canal and taken a stand south of Moeuvres. This was the situation here at the end of the first day's fighting. Wednesday morning the British pushed forward, this time having the support of a certain amount of artillery. Moeuvres was strongly held, but the Irish stormed the defenses with bombs and forced their way half through the village. Here they came up against a heavy barricade which they took with the bayonet and for a time drove the Germans out of the village. In the afternoon the Germans approached from the east side of the canal for a counter-attack, but this was smashed by machine gun and rifle fire. Later in the afternoon the German artillery opened up and heavily shelled the trenches held by the British south of Moeuvres. Thursday morning the Irish were holding most of Moeuvres and the east bank of the canal. In the afternoon the Germans delivered a sudden counter-attack from the north and after hand-to-hand fighting through the streets and among the houses they forced the British to withdraw to the southern outskirts. This morning the Irish again surged forward against the town and at an early hour had worked their way around toward the north. In the Graucourt section, on the right of the Irish, remarkable work was done by cavalry on the first day. The horsemen had swept forward and captured Anneux by Tuesday evening.

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