

GERMANS BOMBARDING PARIS AT 62 MILE RANGE

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HAIG'S HEROES PRESENT SOLID FRONT

British Headquarters in France, March 23, 11 a.m.—(By the Associated Press)—The British, gallantly fighting, are still presenting a solid front to the fiercely attacking Germans, although the defensive troops have withdrawn their line in certain places for strategic reasons.

All day yesterday and much of last night the conflict continued to rage with increasing violence as fresh German divisions were hurled into the fray in an attempt to smash through British defences.

BRITISH LINE FIRM

HAIG COUNTERS AND TAKES LARGE BODY OF ENEMY

BRITISH RECAPTURE MORY, DRIVING OUT GERMANS AND TRAP BIG PARTY OF HUNS

Dashing Attack Wins Back Point Lost To Boches—Fifty German Divisions Being Used In Present Struggle.

London, March 23.—The Germans forced their way into Mory, but a dashing counter-attack drove them out, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters telegraphs. A large party was surrounded and probably was captured.

There is reason to believe fifty German divisions are flowing into the struggle, the correspondent states, and probably half as many more are in close reserve. Under the tremendous onslaught the British troops are falling back very slowly and in excellent order. At many places they are withdrawing voluntarily so as to maintain an unbroken front.

The scenes of activity behind the battlefield description, but everywhere there is the same well ordered organization and quiet confidence. The weather is wonderfully fine, although the visibility is handicapped by local mists. The Mory is on the northern front, 15 miles below Arras. It is about four miles back of the line held by the British before the Germans began their offensive.

FRENCH NOW IN GREAT BATTLE

London, March 23.—It is reported unofficially that the French are now engaged in the great battle.

FRENCH DISPERSE FOE IN WOEVERE DISTRICT

Paris, March 23.—The Germans launched an attack on the French lines in the Woevere district last night, which was dispersed by the French fire. The Germans suffered appreciable losses and left some prisoners in the hands of the French.

COLLINGWOOD SCHREIBER, NOTED ENGINEER, DEAD

Ottawa, March 23.—Sir Collingwood Schreiber, general consulting engineer for the Dominion Government, died this morning at the age of 87 years. Lady Schreiber and his two daughters, Mrs. Travers Lewis and Mrs. Lawrence Lamb, survive. He had a tremendous share in planning transportation systems both east and west, and in the latter part of his career as deputy minister of railways and canals he helped to wisely administer lines directly under the Government, and subsequently supervised the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

He was made manager of the Intercolonial in 1873, and seven years later became chief engineer of the C. P. R., holding both positions until 1892.

U. S. GETS ALL SHIPS ON RUSSIAN COAST

Deal Adds 350,000 Tons to the Entente Marine.

London, March 23.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Tokyo, dated Tuesday, says: "The newspaper Kokumin Shimbun announces that Admiral Austin M. Knight, commander of the United States service fleet, has purchased all the shipping on the Russian coast. This totals 350,000 tons. Admiral Knight is now at Vladivostok."

MASTER OF MONT BLANC WANTED FOR INQUIRY OUT OF COURT'S POWER

Halifax, March 23.—Captain Alme Lemedes, master of the Mont Blanc, with which the Imo collided in Halifax Harbor December 6 last, causing the explosion which wrecked a portion of the city, has left the province. So the supreme court of Nova Scotia was informed this morning. L. A. Lovett, who appeared on behalf of Captain Lemedes, stated that following his discharge under the writ of habeas corpus and not having been notified of any possible review of the case, he had left the city and the jurisdiction of the court.

ON ITALIAN FRONT.

Rome, March 23.—Numerous patrol encounters have occurred along the Italian front, the war office announced today, and there has been some increase in the artillery fire on the mountain line.

It is better to talk plainly, and I am speaking with a great deal of feeling because I have just heard of this overwhelming attack brought about by the failure of the Russian democracy to have its orders obeyed.

"If the attack succeeds, the Germans might be at Calais, and the only answer we can give is a vote of the Miners' Federation saying they are not prepared to fight! You cannot give that answer."

The executive of the federation later passed a resolution advising the men not to resist the coming out of fifty thousand men from the mines.

FOE CLAIMS 25,000 MEN AND 400 GUNS AS CAPTURED

Berlin Reports British Second Position Penetrated at Two Points.

Berlin, March 23.—Between Fontaine-les-Croisilles and Mouevres, German forces penetrated into the second enemy position and captured two villages, army headquarters announced today. British counter-attacks failed.

So far, the statement announces 25,000 prisoners, 400 guns and 300 machine guns have been taken.

Berlin, March 23.—Between Gonnelieu and the Oignon stream, the statement says, the first two enemy positions were penetrated and the heights west of Gouzeaucourt, Heudicourt, and Villers-Pauvres were captured.

The two villages taken on the Fontaine-les-Croisilles front were Vaulx-Vraucourt and Morchies. (The former village is about 3 1/2 miles and the latter about 2 1/2 miles behind the former British front).

LLOYD GEORGE SAYS MORE MEN NEEDED TO AVOID DEFEAT

Tells Labor It Will Suffer Most If War Is Lost.

London, March 23.—Premier Lloyd George, in an address to the Miners' Federation yesterday concerning the result of the miners' ballot on the coming out of men for military service, declared that to avoid defeat in the field it is absolutely essential to have more men.

"I am utterly at a loss," he said, "to know where the men are to be found. If, first, the engineers, and then the miners, say we will not find the men. Other trades will quickly take the same course. This would mean anarchy not government."

The German Attack. "I have just had news that the Germans have attacked us on a front of nearly 60 miles with overwhelming forces. I am amazed that it should be considered debatable whether the miners and engineers are going to make their contribution to the defence of the country."

Premier Lloyd George declared it would be far better that the Government should go out of office than to have its decision disobeyed, adding: "If the government of the country is going to decide whether a law should be obeyed, then, believe me, you will have a condition of things where the people who will suffer most will not be the people at the top, who are generally able to take care of themselves, but the poor devils at the bottom. It has always been so in the history of the world."

plane Talk Best. "It is better to talk plainly, and I am speaking with a great deal of feeling because I have just heard of this overwhelming attack brought about by the failure of the Russian democracy to have its orders obeyed."

"If the attack succeeds, the Germans might be at Calais, and the only answer we can give is a vote of the Miners' Federation saying they are not prepared to fight! You cannot give that answer."

The executive of the federation later passed a resolution advising the men not to resist the coming out of fifty thousand men from the mines.

ENEMY GUNS SHELL PARIS

Paris, March 23.—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long range guns. Since 8 o'clock this morning shells of 240-millimetres have been reaching the capital, and suburbs at intervals of a quarter of an hour, killing about ten persons and wounding about fifteen. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometres (62 miles).

The announcement that Paris was being bombarded was made officially this afternoon. Measures for counter-attacking the enemy's cannon are under execution.

APPALLING LOSSES TO ENEMY

London, March 23.—The most intense fighting appears to have been around Reisel and Trincourt. The slaughter in the enemy ranks was appalling. Twelve times every available gun in the area was concentrated on solid mounds of enemy troops.

ONE BRITISH DIVISION FOUGHT OFF NINETY THOUSAND HUNS

Haig's Men Fighting Magnificently Against Stupendous Masses of the Enemy.

British Headquarters in France, March 23.—A correspondent, describing the terrific fighting on the western front, says: "I found everyone I saw pretty confident. At first they did have a hard job to make the Germans back, but they fought magnificently. For example, south of St. Quentin, one of our divisions had to bear up against the repeated assaults of no fewer than six German divisions, possibly 90,000 men, and only when the assaults ceased with darkness did our troops withdraw to strong positions behind the canal system between St. Quentin and the Oise."

It is estimated that altogether nearly 90,000 Germans participated in the offensive. The enemy fought well, and his guns did good work. The quickness with which the guns were brought forward into No Man's Land after the infantry had advanced, he said, was a statement that the British were in positions, and he was at all points largely superior in numbers."

WANT DUTCH TO BREAK WITH U. S.

Powerful Rotterdam Interests Urging Warlike Action Over Ships Seizure.

London, March 23.—A report that influential interests at Rotterdam have commenced agitation to have the Dutch Government requested to break off relations with the United States, because of the requisitioning of Dutch merchantmen, is contained in an Exchange Telegraph Company dispatch which, received from Copenhagen, quotes the Politiken's Rotterdam correspondent.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 3 o'clock last night: Highest, 53; lowest, 31. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 32; lowest, 25.

TOMORROW—FINE AND COOL

Toronto, March 23.—3 a.m. Forecast. North to east winds; fine and cool today and on Sunday.

Temperatures. The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 3 a.m. today: Stations. High. Low. Weather. Ottawa. 49. 38. Cloudy. Winnipeg. 40. 24. Fair. Port Arthur. 30. 20. Clear. Calgary. 40. 24. Fair. Port Stanley. 42. 14. Clear. Buffalo. 48. 24. Clear. Toronto. 48. 23. Clear. Kingston. 52. 23. Clear. Montreal. 46. 20. Clear. Quebec. 46. 18. Fair.

ANOTHER Foe TRANSPORT SUNK IN EAST BALTIC

Amsterdam, March 23.—Another German transport has been blown up by a mine near the Aaland Islands, at the same point where the transport Hindenburg was sunk, the Dagblad reports. Shortly afterwards the transport Frankland came up and rescued the men on the transport, but was damaged severely by another explosion.

HAIG WITHDRAWS HIS LINE ACROSS DEVASTATED GROUND TO NEW POWERFUL POSITIONS; LINE BENDS NEAR ST. QUENTIN

HINDY'S TROOPS UNIFORMED FOR PARIS PARADE

British Headquarters in France, March 23.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—It has been noted that all the attacking troops are clad in new uniforms, and it will be remembered in this connection that von Hindenburg boasted he would be in Paris by April 1. Anyways, he is certainly assaying to break through in record time, and as the divisions melt away under the torrent of shells and bullets fresh ones are flung in.

THE WAR SITUATION

After two days' terrific battling in their great offensive on the western front the Germans have finally succeeded in bringing the action at one point on the front somewhat more into the open.

Field Marshal Haig reports that the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, near the southern edge of the 50-mile front under attack, was broken through by the great weight of the enemy infantry and artillery. The British here are falling back in good order.

Across Devastated Area. That the yielding of the line at this point had been by no means unexpected, and possibly had been foreseen as ultimately inevitable, is indicated by a statement that the retirement was to prepared positions further west, across the devastated district.

There is nothing in the report to indicate that this retrograde movement will affect the strong defensive lines to the north in any way seriously, as it is explicitly stated that these positions continue to be held by the British. Just what the effect will be upon the entire line to the south is not yet apparent. The British hold the front line in some fifteen miles south of St. Quentin to the River Oise at about the town of La Fere, where the French line will be found taking part in the struggle.

May Use "Manoeuvre Army." There is another factor to be considered, also, should the German thrust develop more seriously. There was a statement at Versailles an Entente army of manoeuvres indicated to be made up of troops of all Allies, which was designed to be available for action at any point on the wide front from the North Sea to the Adriatic where it should be needed.

It has doubtless not been the Entente intention to throw this army into action hastily. But it unquestionably stands ready for use in any emergency, and might easily prove the vital factor in any general engagement which the western front fighting should develop.

Mighty Struggle Continues. The battle is still in progress along the British front, with the Germans continuing to throw fresh forces into the struggle. It is estimated that fifty German divisions are already involved with British troops in the fighting. The divisions in close reserve. Advances from correspondents indicate that wherever the British troops are falling back they are doing so in excellent order and with deliberation, withdrawing voluntarily at some points in order to maintain an unbroken line.

FRENCH AIRMEN TURN BACK RAID ON PARIS

Paris, March 23.—At 9 o'clock tonight a group of enemy airplanes crossed the lines, and a certain number of bombs were dropped on Compiegne and different towns in that region. Several machines advanced further to the south, but were forced to turn back by the fire of our artillery. The alarm was immediately given in Paris, and a half hour later the "all clear" signal was sounded.

Apparently the Germans had intended a raid upon Paris itself, but French airmen rose to meet the oncoming, and not one enemy machine succeeded in reaching the capital.

War Office Announces That Powerful Enemy Attacks Have Succeeded At One Point On Long Front, But Elsewhere Positions Are All Held.

BRITISH RETIREMENT IS MADE VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT PANIC

Terrific Struggle Continues Unabated, Hindenburg Continuing To Send Wave After Wave of Massed Fresh Troops Into the Battle.

London, March 23.—The Germans this morning were pressing hard on the British forces defending Hermites (about 2 1/2 miles back of the old line, in the region southwest of Cambrai).

London, March 23.—Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery has broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, the war office announces.

The British troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding their positions. The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions further west. Very heavy fighting with fresh enemy forces is in progress.

The war office states that there are prepared positions behind the British to which they are falling back.

For the first time in the war on the western front, since the opposing armies established themselves in their trench systems, the defensive zone has been broken through. In other great attacks the British, French and Germans have been able to bend back the line, but not to strike through the zone of defence. Many military critics had reached the opinion that on account of the strength of the lines it would be impossible to break them until one side or the other had been worn down to such a point that the Germans are able to restore the situation by a counter-attack, a withdrawal on a wide front may be necessary, with open field warfare.

The point at which the British line has been broken is near the southern end of the German attacking front, which extends from Arras to La Fere, fifteen miles below St. Quentin.

ONLY FIRST LINE PIERCED. The statement of the British war office that the troops west of St. Quentin are falling back to prepared positions, indicates that the Germans, although they have broken through the British defensive system, have not pierced the entire British defence. The allusion in the British statement to the defensive system may be only to the main battle front system, behind which other lines have been prepared. It is that is the case in Battle of the Somme, when they pierced the Hindenburg line and captured long stretches of it, forcing the Germans to retreat to prepared positions in the rear.

MAKES IT HARDER FOR FOE. The experiences of the attacking forces in other campaigns show that the Germans, as they progress, are likely to find their job more difficult and the resistance of the British more effective. The more deeply they strike into the British lines the further they must move from their bases, entailing increasing difficulties in providing supplies for their troops. They must move forward over a devastated area, while the British will have the great advantage of good roads and railroads. Perhaps the greatest problem of the Germans will be to bring up their heavy artillery. In every previous campaign of this nature it has been necessary for the advancing forces to halt frequently while bringing up the heavy pieces.

DEFENCES ARE STRONG. The extent of the British defence has been a subject of much speculation, but it is known they have been vastly improved during the last winter. Earlier in the war, when the offensive rested with the French and British, less attention was paid to positions of the rear. The British in particular were said to scorn elaborate defensive zones, such as the Germans constructed. After the defection of Russia and consequent increase of German strength in the west, however, it became necessary for the Allies to consider defensive measures, which were carried out during the winter.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT. The statement follows: "The fighting continued until late hours last night on the whole battlefield. During the afternoon powerful hostile attacks, delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery, broke through our defensive system west of St. Quentin."

"Our troops on this part of the battlefield are falling back in good order across the devastated area to prepared positions further west."

"Our troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding their positions."

"Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is in progress."

Continued on Page Three.

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