

The Evening Times ★ Star

VOL. XIII. No. 164—PAGES ONE TO EIGHT

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1917

SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Hindenburg Line Further Crumpled; British Hit Smashing Blows With Big Gains; Lens And St. Quentin Doomed

FIELD REPORT SAYS CANADIANS SOON WILL TAKE LENS

New York, April 14.—A news agency despatch published here today follows: With the British armies afield, April 14.—Lens must fall soon to the Canadians. Its occupation was deemed today only a matter of a short time.

Smashing British Assaults Break Four More Miles Of German Front In Arras Combat Enemy Must Give Even More Ground, Say Observers--Fires and Explosions Back Of Beaten Foe

Successes Permit Haig to Link up Ground Won This Week
With Positions Won Long Ago at Loos--Germans Fighting
Hard as They Retreat--Lens Being Hemmed in--St.
Quentin Soon to Go

British assaults have broken four miles more of the German front in an important sector of the Arras battlefield. The Hindenburg line has been riddled on its northern end, Lens is fast being hemmed in and General Haig's forces are swelling back the Germans from the Loos sector far to the southeast of Arras. Correspondents report every indication of a continuation of the German retirement under the smashing offensive of the British. The Teutons are being hard pressed as they retreat, and explosions and fires are observed in their rear.

Great importance is attached to the success of the British in the fighting north of Vimy. They have carried there several important positions including points between Givenchy en Gobeille and Angres, enabling General Haig to link up the ground won in the engagements early this week in the Arras region with the positions gained long ago in the costly battle of Loos.

This movement is resulting in the envelopment of Lens, with its valuable coal fields. The fall of St. Quentin also seems imminent.

London, April 14.—The village of Fayet, one mile northwest of St. Quentin, has been captured by the British after a sharp fight, according to an official statement issued by the war office.

The important positions of Ascension Farm and Grand Priel Farm, east of Le Verquier, were also reported captured.

In the direction of Vimy the British seized the Vimy station, La Chaudiere and enemy positions between Givenchy en Gobeille and Angres. Progress was also made north of the Bapaume-Cambrai road.

Among the guns captured by the British were four howitzers of eight inches.

The text of the statement reads:—"The village of Fayet, one mile northwest of St. Quentin, was captured last night after a sharp fight."

"On the high ground east of Le Verquier we captured the important positions of Ascension Farm and Grand Priel Farm. We also made progress north of the Bapaume-Cambrai Road in the direction of Quant."

"North of the Scarpe our constant pressure compelled the enemy to yield further ground. We seized Vimy Station, La Chaudiere and the enemy's positions at Fosse number 6 and Buquet mill between Givenchy en Gobeille and Angres."

"The guns taken from the enemy in this area included four howitzers, eight inches."

"The ground gained in our recent operations now links up with the positions wrested from the enemy in the battle of Loos and include the double crassier."

"The enemy attempted a raid east of Loos during the night but was driven off."

FRENCH ALSO GAIN

Paris, April 14.—(Noon)—Artillery fighting continues with marked intensity in the Champagne. The war office so announces. French patrols were active and brought back prisoners. South of St. Quentin there were heavy artillery actions. The statement follows:

"South of St. Quentin our artillery continued to bombard the German positions. There was no infantry fighting during the night between the Somme and the Oise. Two German machine gun positions were broken up by our fire."

"In the Champagne the artillery fighting was very severe. On this part of the front we made numerous reconnaissances, bringing back prisoners. Near La Chappelle, a German reconnaissance party attempted to reach our lines after a violent bombardment. It was dispersed and driven back to the German trenches."

ASSOCIATED PRESS ACCOUNT

British Headquarters in France, April 14.—(From a staff correspondent of the A.P.)—The British last night broke the German front for a distance of four miles. The Germans are in retreat.

The gaps in the German defences were made in two places. Positions on a front of three miles between the double crassier and Givenchy and another mile on the north of the Hindenburg trench system, were captured. Advanced posts were pushed well toward Quant and Fromville, important points in the German defences. The Germans are fighting as they retire from Loos southward and are being hard pressed.

Fires and explosions in the territory to the rear of the German lines continue. The weather today was favorable for campaigning.

BOLIVIA SHOWS THE DOOR TO GERMAN MINISTER

ADMISSION OF
INFERIORITY IN
MEN AND GUNS

German Writer's Statement
Is Noteworthy

Critics Trying to Convince People
That Battle of Arras, After All,
Does Not Amount to Much

Copenhagen, via London, April 14.—German military critics are still endeavoring to convince their readers that the battle of Arras is only of tactical, not strategic importance and without effect upon the general situation. They are occasionally betrayed, however, into making damaging admissions.

Captain Von Salemann, in the Vossische Zeitung, says that the events prove the correctness of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's decision to shorten his line, since nothing can be done against superiority in heavy artillery. He speaks of German inferiority in material as well as in numbers, a noteworthy admission in view of Germany's unprecedented efforts to manufacture munitions under industrial mobilization.

Captain Salemann concludes: "Germany cannot expect always to go with flying banners from victory to victory but despite her inferiority in men and material, she has the nerves which will prevent the British from breaking the line."

Major Morant says that the British have succeeded in shaking the first line, but that the assault has been stopped by the German special and main reserves. The latter statement is interesting if it means the strategic reserve which Von Hindenburg mentioned recently as being accumulated for a striking force in this year's campaign. In a semi-official description of the fighting it is declared that three-quarters of the tanks and armored automobiles used by the British were destroyed within or without the German lines. It is also said that in a battle in the air nine British airplanes were shot down above the Scarpe river.

"PAPA" JOFFRE
GETS HIS BATON

Paris, April 14.—President Poincaré this afternoon presented a marshal's baton to General Joffre, former commander of the French forces. The president signed a decree creating General Joffre marshal of France last December.

Phelix and Ferdinand

WEATHER
REPORT

Issued by Authority
of the Department
of Marine and
Fisheries, R. F. Stupart,
director of
meteorological service

Synopsis.—The pressure is low all along the Atlantic coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida and highest to the westward of the Great Lakes. The weather is mild and showery in the maritime provinces and cold with showers in Ontario and Quebec.

Shower
Maritime.—Moderate south to west winds, partly fair and mild today and Sunday, local showers.
Ottawa Valley.—Moderate northwesterly winds, partly cloudy and quite cool today and on Sunday, snow flurries.

Hands Passports To
Official And
His Staff

PERU AND MEXICO NEUTRAL

Latter Will Not Prohibit Export of
Oil From The Tampico Fields
—Brazil to Arm Merchantmen
Leaving for Submarine Zone

La Paz, Bolivia, April 13.—The German minister and his staff have been handed their passports by the Bolivian government with a note declaring that diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Germany have been severed.

Peru and Mexico Neutral

Lima, Peru, April 14.—The reply of the Peruvian government to the note from the United States announcing the existence of a state of war with Germany says that Peru deplores the fact that the United States has been compelled to take such action, and expresses the hope of a speedy ending of the great war. No reference is made to the neutrality of Peru.

Mexico City, April 14.—In its answer to the American government the Mexican government announces in effect that it regrets that the United States has been unable to solve its differences with Germany in a peaceful manner, but that Mexico, inspired by the desires expressed in her recent peace note, would omit no effort to contribute to the bringing about of peace.

The foreign office today was officially notified of the declaration of martial law in Guatemala. The statement was made here that Mexico has no information of disturbances alleged to have been fomented by Germans on the Guatemalan frontier. The Guatemalan minister has made no representations in this respect.

The statement says oil products may continue to be exported by all foreign purchasers regardless of their nationality or the purpose for which the oil is to be used. Assurance is given in the statement that the Aguilera Company, controlled by Lord Cowdray and the Dutch Shell Company, which have been large purveyors to the British navy, will be unimpaired as long as they obey the regulations of the Mexican government. The same rule will apply to all foreign countries, including the United States.

Brazil to Arm Merchantmen

Rio Janeiro, April 14.—It is officially announced that the government has decided to arm Brazilian merchantmen which purpose to make voyages into the German submarine zone. The ships, however, will be provided with instructions of a purely defensive character. It has been decided to seize, for their own protection from damage, German ships interned in Brazilian ports.

SPAIN MAY TAKE
GRIP WITH TEUTON

Madrid, April 14, via Paris.—Foreign Minister Gineho has announced that a protest to Germany in regard to the sinking of the Spanish steamer San Fulgencio was sent to the Spanish ambassador in Berlin on Saturday in a diplomatic pouch and not transmitted through the German ambassador at Madrid. The gravity of the situation is emphasized by all the newspapers.

Great Victory Over The Turks

In Retreat in Mesopotamia After
Severe Defeat

It Means Wrecking of Plans of Moslems
to Halt Invading Armies--Enemy Suffered Heavy Losses

London, April 14.—The Turks have sustained another defeat at the hands of the British in Mesopotamia. The war office announces that the Turks are in retreat after a battle in which they suffered heavy losses.

The Turks were driven from their positions near Ghazirah, ten miles north-east of Deltawah (Deltawah is thirty-five miles north of Bagdad). They then withdrew toward Samsat and thence toward Dohyabas, the British pursuing the Turks. On Wednesday the Turks lost 200 killed and 700 wounded.

This announcement indicates that the British have wrecked the plan of the Turks to halt the invading armies, which have been sweeping forward without serious interruption for several weeks. An official British statement on Tuesday said the Turks were preparing a converging movement against the British between the Adheim and Dila Rivers. It is in this region that the fighting now reported occurred.

A HARD BATTLE
BUT HAIG'S MEN
WERE VICTORS

Violent Fighting Before Wan-
court and Heninel Won

TANKS DID GREAT WORK

For Forty Hours Ploughed Here
and There, Cutting Down Wire
Defences, Crushing German
Positions and Dealing Out Dead-
ly Fire

London, April 14.—Newspaper correspondents with the British armies in France describe at length the violent fighting which ended in the capture of Wancourt and Heninel, south of the Arras-Cambrai high road. Some of the attackers underwent a terrible ordeal, lying on the open slopes in deep snow and an icy gale and swept by German machine gun fire from Guemappes, while the sky above them was flashing with the burst of shrapnel and high explosives.

When the British soldiers fought their way into Wancourt, they were faced by great uncut belts of wire and waves of bullets from machine guns. The Daily Telegraph's correspondent, referring to this action, says:

"The men were held up by great stretches of wire and menaced most evilly by an enfilade fire from machine guns. Two tanks came to the rescue and did most daring things. They came up in their elephantine way and, most skillfully guided, climbing over rough ground, clearing through snow drifts and mud banks and breasting their blunt noses above the old trenches and sand bag barricades, they made straight for the great hedges of barbed wire and drove straight through them, leaving broad lines of broken strands."

"One cruised into Wancourt, followed from a distance by the cheers of the infantry. It tramped upon machine gun redoubts and fired into the German hiding places. A second tank struck a zig-zag course for Heninel, and in that village swept down numbers of German soldiers. For forty hours these two tanks did not rest, but went about breaking down wire and searching out German strong points, so that the way would be easier for the infantry. Even then our men had no easy fighting, as the enemy defended themselves stubbornly in places."

AUSTR.
SEEKING
PEACE IN
ENGLAND

Washington, April 14.—(Montreal Star).—Official reports here from Bern say that a former Austro-Hungarian ambassador to Great Britain is attempting to open negotiations with England looking to the conclusion of a separate peace between London and Vienna.

At both the state department and the British embassy extreme reticence is displayed when peace possibilities are suggested.

This former Austro-Hungarian official is said to be advised by his government to learn from Great Britain the terms on which a separate peace for the Vienna government might be obtained. The British intermediary, apparently a civilian, is said not to have given any assurances to the Austrian, but to have asked in turn, for the terms which Austria-Hungary would be willing to accept.

TODAY'S BALL GAMES

The baseball schedule for today is: National League—Pittsburg at Chicago, cloudy, 3 p.m.; St. Louis at Cincinnati, clear, 3 p.m.; New York at Boston, clear, 3 p.m.; Philadelphia at Brooklyn, clear, 3 p.m.

American League—Chicago at St. Louis, clear, 3 p.m.; Boston at New York, clear, 3.15 p.m.; Cleveland at Detroit, cloudy, cold, 3 p.m.; Washington at Philadelphia, 3 p.m.

SIR LYMAN JONES IS VERY NEAR DEATH

Toronto, April 14.—The condition of Sir Lyman Jones, who has been dangerously ill at Wellesley Hospital for some weeks, was late last night reported hopeless. It was said that his death was a matter of only a few hours.

MGR. KENNEDY OF TRURO PASSES AWAY IN HALIFAX

Halifax, N.S., April 14.—In the Halifax Infirmary this morning Monsignor Kennedy, parish priest in Truro for fifteen years, passed away. He was eighty years of age and had held parishes at various times all over Nova Scotia.