

# The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 310.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1918.

UNSETTLED.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

## Will Hun Fleet Come? Germans Lose 240,000

Washington, Sunday, March 24, (Special to The Standard)—It is announced here that from information received from London this afternoon the German casualty list up till noon today was not less than two hundred and forty thousand of all ranks. The British losses for the same period of time are placed at less than half that number, the latest estimates giving from ninety-five to one hundred and ten thousand.

The hospital service despite the tremendous demands made upon it is standing up well. Wounded men from the front are under treatment in English hospitals within five hours of the time of receiving their wounds.

There is prevalent here a strong feeling that the German navy will at last attempt an attack. All preparations have been made for such an eventuality, and should the German fleet be anxious to show itself it will find Britain's navy fully prepared.

### GERMANS HAVE SHOT THEIR BOLT BRITISH LINES GENERALLY HELD AND HUNS NOW BEING REPULSED

Attacking Over Fifty Mile Front Germans Have Bent Lines in one or two Places but Retirements Were Well Carried Out and Enemy Progress is Stopped, While at Many Points Our Troops Are Winning.

Special to The Standard.

Washington, Sunday, Mar. 24—The decisive hour of the great war has been reached, in the opinion of the best observers, and while the German army has attained a measure of success in the first furious assault, there remains the supreme confidence which has characterized the allied forces from the start. This assault has accomplished nothing more than had previously been discounted nor have the Germans attained anything like the objective which they hoped would meet their long advertised drive.

Attacking over a frontage of more than fifty miles they have succeeded in bending back portions of the British line and have made an advance of from eight to eleven miles through the British advanced positions. The British army, realizing that the fury of an assault such as this would mean a temporary retirement at some point or other, had made plans which were carried out with the regularity of clockwork. They retired in perfect order to prepared positions, and there, for the past thirty-six hours, they have resisted with apparently unconquerable determination the heaviest pressure that can be brought against them. In the face of this rapidly changing battlefield all that can now be said is that nothing has occurred which had not previously been discounted, that the lines generally are holding firm, and that the Germans in the face of the tremendous losses already sustained and their failure to accomplish their objectives will not be in a position to renew the attack with any greater energy than has already been displayed.

Advices from London and Paris are to the effect that the people of those cities are not at all disturbed over the situation but maintain the most complete confidence in the ability of their armies to inflict, when the time for the great counter thrust comes, a crushing defeat on the German forces.

The announcement that the location of the big gun which is shelling the suburbs of Paris has been discovered arouses only curiosity. It is still felt by many that there remains in this incident a mystery which will be revealed in time.

### WASHINGTON CONFIDENT HUN RUSH WILL BE STOPPED

Special to The Standard.

Washington, March 24.—While the intense interest prevails here in the gigantic struggle on the west, the front confidence remains unshaken that the German thrust will be eventually repulsed. On all sides confidence is expressed at the skill with which the British met the heaviest shock ever hurled at an army.

Even should the British be forced further to regroup their lines, the impetus of the German blow must diminish from now on, military experts believe, and counter-strokes on a major scale are then expected. The war department has cabled General Pershing, the American commander of the exact situation on the British battle front.

### COUNTER-ATTACKS BY BRITISH DRIVE GERMAN TROOPS BACK

Near Croiselles Fighting is Very Severe — Huns Capture a Village But Are Driven Out by Our Troops—Increasing Losses to the Enemy.

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 24—The Germans are pressing their attack hard on the right flank of the British near Ham, while on the northern end of the battle line desperate fighting has been going on since yesterday about Mory, which has changed hands several times.

It is reported that some of the enemy infantry pushed down across the Somme canal and drove forward against prepared positions to which the British had retired.

German cavalry was seen behind the advancing German infantry, and there was small doubt that the attacking forces intended to make a supreme effort to rupture the British line in this sector, which is near the junction of the French and British lines.

The British strategical withdrawal along the battlefield to better positions has been carried out deliberately and in accordance with the plan, there saving the lives of British troops, while the attacking forces have been advancing under increasing difficulties with huge loss of life.

About Mory the battle has been especially fierce, and when the story of the British defense can be read it will be a record of a magnificent stand. The fighting here began yesterday morning, when the Germans attacked with a superior number of troops.

The British held on during the day, but last evening the enemy gained a foothold in the village after a sanguinary struggle at close quarters.

The Germans advanced for this new attack from Croiselles and for hours were held off by a company of British machine gunners who were stationed on high ground and swept the enemy ranks with a grilling fire.

The British organized a counter-attack as soon as the Germans entered the village and pushed the enemy back.

### AMERICAN GUNNERS USING GAS SHELLS

Have Done Good Work Against German Batteries in Rear of Toul Cemetery.

With the American Army in France—Hundreds of gas shells were fired by the American artillery on the Toul sector into the village of St. Bausan. The American observers reported that the work of the artillery was effective. At the same time high explosive shells were fired into the town against batteries in the rear of its cemetery and into Sonnard Wood, where there were other enemy guns.

### GERMANS FAILED TO ATTAIN OBJECTIVES

First Phase of the Assault Has Fallen Far Short of What Was Arranged by Their Plans.

London, Mar. 24—Copies of the German plan of offensive taken from prisoners, according to Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters, show that the enemy objectives were as follows: First—Average penetration, along the whole front of attack, eight kilometres. Second—Twelve kilometres, and on third, beyond which the

### 4.15 EDITION PARIS CONTINUES CALM! DESPITE BOMBARDMENT FROM MONSTER GUN AT DISTANCE OF SEVENTY MILES

### BRITISH HOLD SOMME LINE

London, March 24.—British troops are holding the line of the Somme river to Peronne. Small enemy parties, which attempted to cross the river in the neighborhood of Pargny, were driven back. Northward from the Somme, at Peronne, the British troops are holding their positions after beating off a number of attacks during last night.

### AMERICANS ALSO SHELLING HUNS

Special to The Standard. With the American Army in France, Mar. 24—An enemy observation balloon near Montez broke from its moorings this morning and floated toward the American lines. The artillery brought it down in No Man's Land and then completely destroyed it, firing about one hundred shots. The American artillerymen continue shelling of the German first lines and communicating trenches.

### GERMANS REPULSED NEAR JUVINCOURT

Special to The Standard. Paris, Mar. 24—German troops after a violent bombardment, undertook a surprise attack to the south of Juvincourt, but quite without success.

There has been fairly spirited artillery fighting in the region of Lepretre Wood, in the Vosges, not far from Lafontenelle, and at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf.

### JAPS WANT TO SEND HALF MILLION MEN

Special to The Standard. London, March 24.—A despatch from Tien Tsin says that the Japanese University professors are conducting a campaign in favor of sending half a million troops as far as Irkutsk into Siberia to check the German ambitions in the far east before it is too late.

London, March 24.—"Nothing we have heard up to the present would lead me to think that anything has happened which could not have been expected. There is no reason to come to the conclusion that things are looking bad. General Sir Horace Lockwood-Smith-Dorrien says in an interview with the Weekly Despatch."

scheme does not appear to be carried, twenty kilometres. The success attained thus far falls much short of these objectives, the despatch states.

First Shock of New German Method Has Now Passed and French are Supremely Confident of Ultimate Allied Victory—Germany's Great Cannon Located in Forest of St. Gobain, East of Laon.

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD.

Bulletin—Paris—The German "monster cannon" which has been located in the Forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, is exactly 122 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall.

The gun, says the Matin, is established near Anzy, in St. Gobain Forest. This would place it somewhere further south in the wooded area and estimates the distance at about 70 miles from Paris.

Paris, March 24.—Palm Sunday in Paris was ushered in by the loud explosion of one of the ten-inch shells fired by the Germans from their new gun more than 70 miles distant, at 6.55 o'clock this morning. The alarm was sounded immediately. Many people took shelter, but larger numbers appeared in the streets on the way to the churches, which were almost as crowded as usual, the women, who sell palm leaves, doing their customary thriving business.

The shells arrived at regular intervals of twenty minutes at first. The detonations seemed louder, amid the ordinary Sunday calm, than yesterday but they seemed to have lost their power to disturb the population, which refused to be distracted from its Sunday habits to any great extent.

In the absence of means of transportation, a great many persons were seen on the streets leading to the centre of the city walking to keep their appointments.

The rapidity of the fire increased after the first few shells landed, explosions following each other every fifteen minutes on the average. Some of the shots came after an interval of only 12 minutes.

Paris, March 24.—The comments of the French press this morning were about evenly divided between the big gun which is bombarding the city from back of the German lines and the terrific battle raging on the British front. The tone of the comment on the bombardment is one of astonishment at the feasibility of the performance, while as to the battle, the favorable ending of it is confidently expected.

The newspapers do not conceal their admiration for the mechanical feat of the Germans in penetrating their new weapon, but speak passionately of the useless barbarity of the bombardment. The Matin says it is consoling to note that the number of victims is small, but it asks for reprisals on German cities.

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