

THIRTEEN THOUSAND PRISONERS ARE TAKEN IN BRITISH ADVANCE

Official Report of British Gains

London, April 13.—The British official communication issued this evening announces that the total prisoners taken in the offensive begun last Monday morning now aggregate more than 13,000. Guns to the number of 166 also have been taken.

On a twelve-mile front from north of the River Scarpe to south of Loos, British troops today pressed back the Germans all along the line and captured six villages. Field Marshal Haig's men, the official communication from British headquarters in France tonight adds, also have gained a footing in German trenches northeast of Lens. Prisoners and guns also were taken in the advance.

Southeast of Arras, the statement adds, the British also made progress and are now astride the Hindenburg line as far as a point seven miles south-east of Arras.

The villages seized by the British are all east and north of the Vimy Ridge. They are Baillieu, Willeval, Vimy, Petit Vimy, Givenchy-en-Gohelle and Angres.

The text of the statement reads: "The area of active operations extended today toward the north. East and north of the Vimy Ridge our troops pressed back the enemy on our whole front from north of the River Scarpe to south of Loos.

"We have seized the villages of Baillieu, Willeval, Vimy, Petit Vimy, Givenchy-en-Gohelle and

Angres and have gained a footing in the enemy's trenches northeast of Lens. In this area we have captured prisoners and guns.

"South of the Arras-Cambrai road we have captured Wancourt Tower on a spur east of Wancourt Village and have advanced astride the Hindenburg line as far as a point seven miles southeast of Arras.

"We have also made further progress on the high ground east of Le Verquier and in Havincourt Wood (northwest of St. Quentin).

"Much useful work was done by our aeroplanes yesterday, although the weather continued unfavorable for flying. The only hostile formation encountered was severely handled by one of our patrols, which drove down four enemy machines out of control. One other hostile aeroplane was destroyed by us during the day. Three of our machines are missing.

"The number of prisoners taken since the commencement of our operations now exceeds 13,000, including 285 officers. We have also captured 166 guns, including eight 8-inch howitzers, twenty-eight 5-inch howitzers, eighty-four trench mortars and 250 machine guns, in addition to a considerable number of guns, trench mortars and machine-guns which were demolished or buried by shellfire and cannot be enumerated.

"Many of the captured guns have been turned upon the enemy by us with good effect."

Petit Vimy, Givenchy-en-Gohelle and Angres," the statement continues, in describing the advance.

"We gained a footing in the enemy's trenches northeast of Lens.

"South of the Arras-Cambrai road we captured Wancourt Tower.

"Eastward of the village we advanced astride the Hindenburg line to a point seven miles southeast of Arras.

"We further progressed on the high ground east of Le Verquier and Havincourt Wood."

Straighten Line.

The advance of the British between the River Scarpe and Lens served to straighten their line in this section. They thrust forward from a half-mile to two miles on a front of more than four miles. Baillieu is north of Arras, Neuilly and Rumpoux, which the British already hold.

The crushing assaults made by the British, following elaborate artillery preparations, kept the Germans engaged on a front of nearly fifty miles.

The French war office reported that fighting about St. Quentin continued before positions which were captured from the Germans during the morning.

Between the Somme and the Oise French artillery violently bombarded German organizations.

The German official statement tonight reported "strong fighting in the region of Bullecourt, with artillery duels in progress in the Arras region, particularly north of Hellem."

The point where the British are astride the Hindenburg line, as reported by General Haig, is approximately in the middle of the fifty-mile front along which the British are attacking.

Hindenburg Outdone.

It became increasingly evident to military experts tonight that Field Marshal Haig is "out-Hindenburging Hindenburg" in the matter of strategy on the western front. Right now he has forced the German army chief to keep a front of more than fifty miles constantly on the alert for British attacks. No one knows where Haig may try a smash next. He started out driving around Arras; he mixed this blow with one lower down to Cambrai; then came a punch far to the north, around Le Bassée; and today, with a bewildering array of strength he struck simultaneous blows far to the north of Arras—around Le Bassée and Loos; in the same way, and again far to the south, toward Cambrai.

These tactics force the German army defenders to keep large forces of reserves constantly moved from place to place. They bewilder the German staff trying to figure out where the next blow may come from.

Push is Varied.

Field Marshal Haig varied the centre of his "push" today, and quickly striking toward Cambrai, instead of around Vimy, succeeded in capturing enemy positions "on a wide front."

"We captured enemy positions at night on a wide front from north of Harcourt to Metz-en-Couture, and now hold St. Martin, Guesche Wood and Gueschevilliers, and the wood."

His official report asserted today.

"There was sharp fighting between St. Quentin and Cambrai before the positions were captured. During the night in a successful raid southwest of Loos, the enemy's dugouts were bombed and defenses damaged. In the neighborhood of Flogestreet, a hostile raiding party came under our machine gun fire and failed to reach our trenches."

BELGIUM'S MISERY UNDER HUN RULE

Heroic People Enduring Poverty and Privation With Remarkable Fortitude.

CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

International Relief Commission Members Appeal in Convocation Hall.

For the first time since Belgium was placed under the heel of German occupation have Toronto people been told the story of the lives of those brave people, who are quietly enduring poverty and privation with their hopes set in the arms of the allies to release them from their bondage.

Belgium from within, as described to a large audience at Convocation Hall last night by Mrs. C. Kellogg, a member of the International Relief Commission, and Edgar Rickard, assistant director of the commission, was a story of pity and gratitude; a narrative of remarkable fortitude, and a message of inspiration to the people of the world. And yet it had its cheering side, for the spirit of nationality is deeply cherished and brave Belgians remain unconquered. No words, declared the speakers, could express the gratitude of the Belgians for the assistance given them, and no power could share their hopes of regeneration.

With the speakers of the evening on the platform were J. W. Woods, who presided, Mrs. W. H. Cummings, Mrs. Pepler, Col. Noel Marshall, Mr. Justice Riddell, Mr. Justice Rose, Chief Justice Mulock, Col. W. R. Dinnick, Prof. Meyer, W. K. George, Rev. Canon Plumptre, Rev. Dr. Chown, Rev. J. Shearer and W. H. Cavithra.

Mrs. Kellogg, who was the only woman on the commission, and who has just returned from six months' work among the Belgian people, had warm words of praise for the women of the stricken country. She declared that they were carrying out a splendid work in feeding the hungry and obtaining employment for the workless. They were a magnificent band of cheery and courageous white-robed



Lieut. M. McCallum, of the 216th Battalion, which left for the eastern front yesterday. Lieut. McCallum is one of the most popular officers in the battalion. He is especially well known in Toronto sport circles. For many years he was in the city engineer's department at the city hall, but went to the harbor commission as assistant secretary with Chief Engineer E. L. Cousins.

women who worked from one end of the country to the other carrying food, comfort and hope into the homes of the peasants. But the most pitiable feature of the Belgian situation, said Mrs. Kellogg, was the attitude of the middle class. They were too proud to receive help from the soup kitchens, and for days they went without food. If there was any real starving it was among this class of people.

The real story of suffering and heroism of Belgium would never be told, declared Mrs. Kellogg, and she thought that the little white flag of the commission, the sign of which brought cheer to every little child, and the goose step, ever with them, about summed up the whole situation.

She did not appeal to the audience in behalf of the Belgians, but asked them if they did not consider that their offering of the hand of help and friendship to these war-torn people could be the relief centres and the lines of two or three thousand men, women and children waiting outside the soup centres they could fully appreciate the suffering. Meantime of any description brought a look of gladness to the faces of the hungry ones, and life was explained in the question, "How much fat is there in the soup?"

The women of Belgium had a genius for organization, the perfected systems that mean results. She had never seen, while working with the 45,000 workers, dirty relief centre in any part of Belgium.

It was the flame of Cardinal Mercier that held them to that condition. He realized the tragedy of Belgium as a whole, but he also realized the tragedy of each individual.

His spirit was wonderful and unconquerable. She had heard him tell the people never to bow their heads to the conqueror, but to keep their faith in God and look to the day of their release. The work was divided into two sections, the caring and feeding of the destitute and obtaining employment for the women. Special care was being given the children, so that when the king and queen return to Belgium they will receive a new generation, healthy in mind and body.

Under sufferance, Mrs. Kellogg said, the women were carrying on little industries, and in the making of lace, producing more than she ever did before the war.

Mr. Rickard stated that the relief work in Belgium was one of the greatest accomplishments of humane and philanthropic organization, and it was gratifying to know that all the food reaching Belgium was given the people.

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SPECIAL DUNLOP TRACTION

Canadian Troops Appreciate Congratulations

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, April 13.—Sir Edward Kemp has received the following cable from Lieut.-General Sir Julian Byng:

"Your inspiring message has been communicated to all ranks of Canadian corps. All have warmest appreciation of the patriotism of those Canadians not serving with the corps whose work has made the success of the corps possible, and hope for a continuance of that success in the future."

The following cable has been sent by General Sir Sam Hughes to General Sir Julian Byng, commanding Canadians at the front:

"Canadians' rejoice in recent successes of the allies, more especially of our own gallant boys. Canada's citizen soldiers have fully justified the faith, confidence and trust reposed in them. The trained freedom is ever the superior of the repressed. While joyous at the prospect of speedy triumph of democracy and overthrow of autocracy, yet the silver lining of the cloud is dimmed by the loss of so many of our best and bravest. Their memories will ever be preserved, fresh and bright, as emblems of human liberty. Kindly communicate to Canadians."

Greatest One-Day Bag of Prisoners

(Continued from Page 1).

spite the bringing up of a part of the Prussian guard to strengthen the German defenses. Official figures now available, but not yet complete, show that among the material taken in the Canadian corps area are thirty guns, seventy-four machine guns and forty-nine trench mortars. It will take the Germans some time to bring up their artillery, even if it was within a reasonable distance before.

The total number of prisoners taken is still more increased, and on this front will come close to 4,000. The total along the British front on Monday is now known as reaching almost 12,000, the greatest one-day bag of the war. The general in command of the Canadian corps has received congratulations in the name of the Canadian people on the success of Monday's operations.

It will be interesting to the people at home to know that in machine gun equipment the British army now is greatly superior to the German army, as in artillery also.

Casualties Small But Many Wounded

By Stewart Lyon.

Canadian Headquarters in France, April 13, via London.—The final phase of the battle of Vimy proceeds, to use the words of the phrase-makers at Berlin, entirely in accordance with our intentions. This (Friday) afternoon the Canadian outposts are in close touch with Givenchy, Petit Vimy, Vimy itself, Furbus and other villages on the eastern slope of the ridge. While our guns are avoiding doing any damage to the many coal mines and industrial establishments in this neighborhood, they are destroying the enemy's defenses as thoroughly as they did his trenches and wire entanglements this side of the crest before the assault on

the crest possible, and hope for a continuance of that success in the future."

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Upwards of twenty thousand prisoners have now been taken by the victorious forces of Sir Douglas Haig.

Since Monday 13,000 Germans have been captured, the official report of the British commander-in-chief tonight. The prisoners include 285 officers, 1,000 non-commissioned officers and 11,715 men.

A total of 166 have been captured (including 84 trench mortars) and 250 machine guns.

At three widely separated points the British drove home their terrific smashes against the enemy. From the northern end of the line, in the region of Loos, thru to the vicinity of Cambrai, and on to St. Quentin, the battle was carried to the shell-raked Germans.

In the meantime the French were striking a terrific blow in conjunction with the British.

Fight for St. Quentin.

The French official statement received here tonight from Paris reported the most violent battle still in progress south of St. Quentin.

"To the east and north of Vimy Ridge the enemy was pressed back along the whole front," Gen. Haig reported.

"From north of the River Scarpe, to the south of Loos we have seized the villages of Baillieu, Willeval, Vimy,

and the effect was their answering fire.

Our only way of learning what was the result of our bombardment on the crest and the eastern slope of the ridge was by aeroplane observation and photographs. This was no use at night or on dull days, when the sunners had "to go it blind," trusting to previous work of the observers. All this is completely altered now. It is the Germans who must shoot over the hill in the dark now, trusting to their service to reveal the damage. That branch is now having a hard time fighting and is entirely too busy to spot for the enemy guns on this side of the ridge, and the result of this artillery situation will be the speedy ejection of the Germans from the western part of the plain. The enemy knew what was coming. On March 30 a captured intelligence officer's report shows that the German higher command had been informed "that north of Arras, as part of the spring offensive, the British will be forced, according to the nature of the ground, to deliver a joint attack on the long narrow Vimy Ridge."

Then follows a statement that the Canadian troops hold this part of the front under circumstances pointing to a strong concentration. The enemy intelligence officer adds:

"The Canadians are known to be good troops, well suited for assaulting. There are no deserters to be found among the Canadians."

If not buried in the ruins of his dugout, as many Germans are known to be, the officer wrote, he would be able to say, "I told you so."

Heavy shells are now dropping into the village of Vimy at the rate of over one a minute. Few houses are left standing. By evening there was no shelter for the enemy. I am authorized to say that while the proportion of slightly wounded in the operations of this week to date are greater than usual, the casualties as a whole are less than anticipated.

British Astride Hindenburg Line

By Ed L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.

London, April 13.—England's rapidly advancing army is astride the famous "Hindenburg line."

In desperate fighting today the Brit-

ish forces thrust their lines forward over a wide front, captured five additional villages, and threw back the enemy over a wide area.

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