

# SOUTHERN END OF HINDENBURG LINE SLOWLY CRUMBLING UNDER TERRIBLE PRESSURE FROM FRENCH ARMY; HUNS SUMMON FRESH TROOPS

## FRENCH STILL ADVANCING ON GERMAN LINE

System of Trenches Almost Two Miles in Length Captured.

## VIOLENT ARTILLERY ON OISE AND SOMME

Five Hundred Prisoners Taken Near Hurtebeis Following Spirited Engagement—Artillery Duel Near Dixmude.

Paris, April 19.—Steady gains by the French are reported in the official communication, issued by the war office tonight, in the continuation of the drive against the southern end of the Hindenburg line. The most important advance was made to the northwest of Auberville, where the French carried a strong system of German trenches over an extent of about a mile and a quarter. The text of the communication reads: "Between the Somme and the Oise quite violent artillery actions were in progress. In the direction of the Oise our energetic pressure, continued to withdraw in the direction of the Chemin Des Dames. Our troops, in the course of the day, occupied the villages of Aisy, Jouy and Laffaux, and kept in close contact with the enemy. Fort De Conde (northwest of Conde-Sar-Aisne) also fell into our possession.

### 500 Prisoners Taken.

"In the region of Hurtebeis, after a spirited engagement, we occupied a point of support north of that farm, taking five hundred prisoners and two cannon of 105 millimetres. "West of Bernécourt we made an important advance and captured about fifty prisoners. "In Champagne the artillery action was continued furiously against the Massif of Moronvillers. We enlarged our positions north of Mont Haut, and repulsed two German counter-attacks in that region and on Mont Carnillet.

"Northwest of Auberville our troops brilliantly carried, on a front of two kilometres, a system of trenches strongly organized, joining the village with the Moronvillers Wood, and drove back the enemy to the southern outskirts of Vaudécourt. One hundred and fifty prisoners were captured in the course of this action.

"In the Argonne a German attempt against one of our trenches in the direction of Bolante was easily repulsed.

"Artillery fighting at times quite spirited, took place in the region of Vauquois and on the left bank of the Meuse, in the direction of Le Mort Homme.

"Belgian communication: There was a violent artillery duel before Dixmude today. Further to the south, in the direction of Stenstraete, lively bomb fighting occurred.

"Eastern theatre, April 17: Attacks or reconnaissances, supported by strong artillery preparation, were carried out by the enemy in the direction of the Cerna, in the region of Starvina; all of them were repulsed abruptly.

"Before the Italian front preparation for an enemy attack was stopped by artillery fire. Towards Monastir and Tarvenc Stena the enemy carried out a violent cannonade. We energetically counter-shelled batteries in action near Koritza. We drove the enemy beyond Moskopolle, and made Austrian prisoners.

"April 18: A surprise attack by the enemy in the region of the lakes was repulsed. After violent artillery preparation the enemy attacked positions recently conquered by us in the neighborhood of Tarrent Stena and succeeded in gaining a foothold in some advanced elements. The battle continues.

"The enemy has been very active in the region of Mayadar, on the right bank of the Vardar."

### HORSES PURCHASED FOR ALLIES

Ottawa, April 19.—According to a return tabled in the Commons this afternoon 26,015 horses have been purchased in Canada for the Canadian army since the war began, the total cost being \$2,400,850. The return stated that the government had no information as to the number of army horses bought in Canada for France and Great Britain.

## Hindenburg Line Is Gradually Crumbling

General Nivelle's Men Make Important Gains from Soissons East of the Old Champagne.

## GERMANY NOW PLANNING ATTACK TO ISOLATE RUSSIAN CAPITAL?

British Drive Ahead in Loos Sector and Take Prisoners—Germans Throw in Many Divisions Hoping to Turn Tide.

The southern part of the Hindenburg line in France continues to crumble or fall back before the forces of the French general, Nivelle. Thursday witnessed additional important gains by the French at numerous points from Soissons eastward to the old Champagne, and also the capture of men and guns.

In the latter region northwest of Auberville the French captured strongly fortified German trenches on a front of a mile and a quarter, and made prisoner 150 Germans. Northeast of Soissons the villages of Aisy, Jouy and Laffaux and Fort De Conde were captured by the French, while to the east, near Hurtebeis, another point of support fell into their hands and with it 500 prisoners and two cannon.

Violent artillery actions are in progress between the Somme and the Oise, in Champagne, near Le Mort Homme, in the Verdun sector and in Belgium, around Dixmude.

### HUNS BRING UP NEW MEN.

The French war office reports that Wednesday night the Germans threw twelve divisions of fresh men into the fray between Soissons and Auberville in an attempt to hold General Nivelle's forces back, but that their efforts were unavailing. The Berlin official says German counter-attacks northwest of Auberville "compensated for the enemy's gain of terrain." It is admitted by Berlin that the Germans near Villes-Aux-Bois retreated to new lines, being unable to withstand the intensity of the French fire.

Comparative quiet, gauged by the recent intensive fighting, prevails on that part of the line in France held by the British.

The latest official communication dealing with the Arras-Lens sector reports slight gains for Field Marshal Haig's forces, south of Monchy-Le-Preux and Fampoux and also to the north in the Loos sector, where prisoners were taken.

While the Petrograd war office announces that the activity on the eastern front has consisted merely of rifle firing and scouting operations, reports from Petrograd, said to have been made public by the Russian general staff, are to the effect that the Germans on the northern part of the front in Russia, backed by their fleet, are preparing for a great attack on the Russian right wing, probably with the intention of attempting to isolate Petrograd from the main Russian armies.

### French Success Was Great.

Grand Headquarters of the French Army, on the French Front, April 19, (Evening).—The French success in the forward movement was much more considerable than indicated by the published reports or the army communiques, which narrate a very sober tale of the events. There is no intention of relaxing the pressure on the Germans, who are opposing a tenacious resistance without avail.

Besides points of formidable strength and most important strategic value, such as Ostel, Courtecon and Vailly, which have fallen before the French assaults, reports sent by runners from reconnoitering parties indicate steady progress everywhere and large captures of material. The staffs take no risks; everything is methodically prepared in order to be certain as is humanly possible of success before trying to approach each objective point.

Today's weather was better for the operations, but it was so misty that airplanes were almost useless.

### Hun Generals Lost Their Heads.

The commanders of the German reinforcements hurrying to the front appear to have lost their heads, or have been badly directed in several cases. One division marched directly into wire entanglements, and was almost entirely annihilated or taken prisoner. Eighteen now German divisions have been thrown into the front since Monday, several of which were blown virtually to pieces by the fire of the French artillery. Immediately after their arrival, two divisions, launched directly into an ineffectual counter-attack before Juvincourt, suffered in this way.

Owing to the extent of the battle line the Germans are no longer so much favored by manoeuvring on the inside line circle. The French soldier's confidence and spirit have been even intensified under the most severe hardships during the advance. Nothing seems to depress him. Even the old Territorials, road-making on the heels of the attacking troops, maintain a constant cheerfulness.

### Regret Loss of Vimy.

British Headquarters in France, via London, April 19.—A German officer, captured Tuesday, frankly stated that the Germans regard the loss of Vimy Ridge as the biggest defeat they have suffered since the war began. This officer knows the ridge thoroughly, having been stationed on it all last summer, and said he could not understand how any troops could fail to hold terrain northwest of Auberville.

## OFFICIALLY GREETES THE U. S. AS ALLY

Expressions of Appreciation in House of Commons Yesterday.

## FOSTER AND LAURIER UNITE IN TRIBUTES

U. S. Decision Sufficient to Finally Defeat Teutons Is Opinion of Sir George Foster.

Ottawa, April 19.—Canada's House of Commons, following the lead of the mother of parliaments, today welcomed the United States as an ally in the fight for civilization. No formal resolution was passed but American entrance was made the occasion for the expression of striking appreciation of the high motives actuating the decision for war and the tremendous results that must flow from it.

Sir George Foster, who, as acting premier, spoke for the government, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier joined in paying tribute to the statesmanlike and far-sighted courage of President Wilson, and in the tributes of both leaders there was the expressed conviction that the moral effect of America's decision alone would be sufficient to turn the tide finally against the Teutons cause.

### The United States' Position.

Sir George reviewed the position of the United States from the commencement of the war. When the war broke out the people of the United States were determined to remain neutral. Their whole tradition had been against any conflict with European countries. Her policy had been to keep herself as aloof as possible from European wars and European another they had for two and a half years maintained their neutrality. They had maintained it honestly and thoroughly until the time came when they could no longer remain neutral. Then it had thrown into the contest the weight of its one hundred millions of peace-loving and liberty-loving people.

Sir George paid a tribute to the vigorous manner in which the United States had proceeded to utilize her wealth of resources. Her course had been of vital importance to the warring nations. "It imparts courage to the soldiers who have been long warring," he said, "it gives support to the fighting nations in a way in which it was not given before and in the way of finance it makes it possible for Great Britain to go forward for the remaining months of the war with a feeling of confidence and trust that the financial resources will not fall them."

Referring to the experiences of Great Britain in losing so many officers and trained men by sending over her whole regular army to the outbreak of war, Sir George expressed the hope that the United States could lend more effective aid by retaining her trained men to train others. He doubted if a large army from the United States could find its way to the front for eight or ten months at least.

"If it so comes that this war drags its slow length for another year with the increasing exhaustion of the Allied and enemy nations the importation of this fresh virile force of one or two millions will spell absolute victory for the side for which it fights and absolute defeat for the side against which it fights."

### Laurier's Tributes.

Sir Wilfrid in following referred to the criticism of those who thought that President Wilson had shown too much hesitation. The president of the United States has shown himself a great man. He had been prudent but he had always kept up the high ideals of the civilization of the world, Sir

## Canadian Heroism On Heights of Vimy

Canadian Press Correspondent Cites Instances Which May Lead to Winning of Coveted Decorations.

## THE STORY OF A PRIVATE WHO SAVED MANY CANADIAN LIVES.

Deeds of Our Soldiers Recalled Most Thrilling Achievements of Dumas' Heroes—One Lieut. Who Killed Eight Huns.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, April 19.—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent Canadian Press)—Where all the soldiers have been heroic it's difficult to single out actions which stamp the men who perform them as the bravest of the brave; but from the records which may result in the decoration of some of the heroes of the battle of Vimy Ridge I am now permitted to make mention of examples of conspicuous valor and place honor where it belongs.

A private who, during the fierce struggle for the hill the second day of the battle, earned a decoration, if ever a man did. The advance was made in a blinding snowstorm which, fortunately, carried the wind into the faces of the enemy in their carefully guarded position on the hill slope. As our men advanced they were met by a murderous fire from a machine gun operated and guarded by a group of a dozen of the enemy. Our men were falling fast as the hail of lead from the machine guns swept the hillside. Then, with utter disregard to his own safety, this private rushed forward, tackling alone the barrier to our victory. Making progress from shell hole to shell hole, he reached a point within thirty yards of the enemy gun. He threw a bomb that distance which killed or wounded part of the machine gun crew; then, with a final rush, he rushed the position and bayoneted the five men remaining with the gun. This splendid deed of gallantry saved the situation and the lives of many men.

### Courageous Machine Gunners.

Among others whose bravery was so conspicuous as to warrant bringing it to the attention of the authorities is a machine gunner who, after all the members of his gun crew were killed, operated the gun alone. A party of thirty-five of the enemy tried to rush his gun, which occupied an advance post. Had they done so they might have turned back the attack. The lone machine gunner sweat away the last of the group at a distance of fifteen yards.

### Captured Seventy Prisoners.

Another episode was that wherein the captain of a battalion engaged in the assault on the hill went forward, with a scout, to secure Germans who were trapped in dugouts before they could make their escape. He left the scout standing near the entrance of the large dugout, with instructions to shoot anyone emerging if he did not himself return.

When the officer reached the bottom of the dugout he found seventy Germans in it, who surrendered at his demand. In the face of so many prisoners it was impossible that their captor should turn his back on them and ascend the dugout stairs, as doubtless he would have been promptly shot in the back with his revolver. He stationed himself at the foot of the stairs and ordered the prisoners up. Several of them, on reaching the top, were shot at by the scout, who had no evidence that the enemy had

Wilfrid spoke of the difficulties with which President Wilson had been confronted including a large body of pacifists who hoped against hope that they could forever keep their country outside the base of war. The president had made his decision at last and because of the wise policy he had followed he now had the whole American people, scarcely without exception, behind him in supporting the cause of the Allies.

The opposition leader concurred in Sir George Foster's reference to the decisive effect of an American contribution of troops in large numbers should the war last so long. If the time came and American troops were called there would be no doubt about the issue. "But the weight alone of their moral action is enough to be a decisive factor in the struggle," said Sir Wilfrid, "no more than any other part of the British Empire, more than any other part of the civilized world are interested in the action taken by the United States. We share with them the confidence and we hope as a result of this war a brotherhood of nations will be established and that the brotherhood of men will be the basis of the future relations of the people of the world. Let us hope that this brotherhood of men will commence with our relations with the United States."

### THE CANADIAN ENLISTMENT.

Ottawa, April 19.—In the two weeks ended April 15 there were 3,359 enlistments in Canada, Toronto District leading with 957, and Ottawa-Kingston second with 666. Other figures, by districts, are: Manitoba, 353; Maritime Provinces, 302; London, 300; British Columbia, 224; Montreal, 219; Saskatchewan, 154; Quebec, 74; Alberta, 69. Grand total to date, 400,588.

## GRITS START THEIR GAME IN COMMONS

On First Day of Session they Held Up Two Harmless Motions.

## FIGHTING SESSION REGARDED AS SURE.

Liberals Evidently Determined to Place Politics Ahead of Patriotism Whenever Occasion Offers.

### Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., April 19.—Those who have become convinced that the "fat is on the fire" and that we are to have a spectacular political battle in the House of Commons as a preliminary to a general election in the near future, appeared to have some ground for their beliefs when the house re-opened this afternoon. The opposition, for no apparent reason except mere opposition, refused to agree to two government motions, the passing of which could not possibly hurt anybody. One of these was by Hon. Frank Cochrane to straighten out the tangle regarding the committee appointed to prepare the bill of railway consolidation. That committee met during the recess but was unable to organize for two reasons, one that a rule of the house forbade special committees of over fifteen members—this one had twenty-six—and the other that no quorum could be got. So today Mr. Cochrane moved the suspension of the adjournment and the reduction of the quorum to nine.

The second motion objected to was by Sir George Foster to enable the Commons and Senate committees which are dealing with the question of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of confederation to meet jointly.

These harmless motions were objected to and as the speaker pointed out, the house had to pass them unanimously before they could be operative. They were therefore allowed to stand. However, there was no ostensible reason for holding up the business; certainly none was given and the impression has been given that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has begun to fight.

## SCANDINAVIAN VESSEL TORPEDDED; ALL LOST

Norwegian Press Comments Bitterly on German Outrages Against their Shipping.

London, April 19.—The torpedoing of an unarmed Scandinavian steamship, with the loss of all on board, except Captain Karstein Olsen, is reported in a Reuter despatch from Christiania. The captain says the submarine rose to the surface after the torpedo had been fired, and watched twenty-nine persons drown without offering assistance. The Norwegian press comments bitterly on this incident. The shipping gazette says the present situation of Norway is worse than it was at war. It adds that the United States should have the most cordial co-operation of all the Scandinavian countries in the effort to shut off Germany from exports, even from neutral countries. "All neutrals ought voluntarily to break off commercial relations with Germany," it says.

### NICARAGUA BACKS U. S.

Washington, April 19.—Nicaragua has aligned herself with the Latin-American nations endorsing the entry of the United States in the war with Germany. The foreign office at Managua notified the state department today that the government there sympathizes with the United States in its action, but makes no mention of neutrality.

### U. S. ROADS GET INCREASE.

Washington, April 19.—The interstate commerce commission today issued a tentative order permitting the railroads to file supplemental tariffs, increasing freight rates 146 per cent, as applied for, effective June 1.

## THE GERMAN VERSION OF FRENCH SUCCESS ON WESTERN FRONT

London, April 19.—The official statement of the campaign in France, given out in Berlin this afternoon reads: "Southeast of Arras the firing was lively. The artillery duel was more intense on both sides of Croisnoy. "French attacks occurred along the Aisne-Marne canal, the strongest being against Brimont, which failed. "In Champagne our counter-attacks against the ridge thoroughly, having been stationed on it all last summer, and said he could not understand how any troops could fail to hold terrain northwest of Auberville."