

GERMANS IN DANGEROUS AND UNSTABLE POSITION

TEUTONS OUT FOR BIG VICTORY BUT THEY RISK GREAT DEFEAT

Henri Bidou Declares the German Objective Remains in the South and that by Forcing their Adversary to the North they are Preparing a Thorough Attack in the South.

(By Henri Bidou, Military Critic of the Paris Journal).
Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

Paris, April 15.—Before the battle of Arrmentieres the German lines formed a kind of hump between the Basse Canal and the south of Arrmentieres. They formed the contour of a low lying scene whence the enemy could overlook the Allied lines in the west. The Anglo-Portuguese troops were thus below the enemy in a country where it is difficult to dig in water-soaked clay. It was hard to hold the position. The Germans have pierced it.

Fortunately, however, the true line of defence was not there. The first lines penetrated neither from the German nor the other side the chief position. This is in the rear. For the Germans it was at a distance of three kilometres, what the English call the crest of Aubers. For the Allies it was five or six kilometres westward on the edge of a long ditch, where the Lawe and the Lys flow in succession.

English Stood Firm.

As the English stood firm in the south before Givency, the Germans had to advance into a salient from east of Festubert to the Salles-Batailles-Lestrem line, where their situation would thus have been precarious if they had not extended this attack on the right flank. The German positions were before Arrmentieres, they passed over the Lys at Frelinghen, and occupied the low ground east of the Messines, Wytschaete Plateau, which turns toward the east south of Hillebeke, and defends the Ypres-Messines-Gheluvelt Road. The Germans proceeded from Fleurbax to Wytschaete.

On the south they tried to force a passage of the Lys; in the north to reconquer the Messines Plateau. On this Plateau the English had two positions, one advanced, passing through Oostverne, the other, the principal one, passing through Messines and Wytschaete. The Germans took the advanced position and reached the principal position, where in a furious battle they were fought off.

Such is the operation. What is its significance? Getting across the Lys compelling our allies to evacuate Arrmentieres by ascending in the north of the river to the Messines Plateau, the Germans gained an initial advantage. They have in particular exposed the allied position flanked from the south, but, as there are always fluctuations in a battle, they by themselves are of little importance.

Germans Bad Position.

Serious, however, is what happens on the principal lines of resistance, the Germans are there in an unstable and dangerous situation, having behind them wasted ground and difficult communications. But more than that, in order to carry out this operation they had to engage divisions of that precious general reserve they had so carefully prepared. This is the capital fact. They had, as a gambler says, to play a trump card. For what purpose? Evidently in order to compel the allies to do the same and maintain in the north a certain number of divisions. From this we can conclude almost with certainty that their true objective remains in the south, and that, by forcing their adversary to the north they are preparing a thorough attack in the south.

BRITISH HURL BACK GREAT HUN FORCES

Momentum of German Attacks in the Northern Sector has been Broken.

SITUATION STILL RATHER CRITICAL

Germans Fail to Break Through, Although they Gain Some Ground.

Seven days after the Germans launched their gigantic assault against the British lines between Lens and Ypres, the momentum of their attacks has been broken and the waves of the Teutonic forces are recoiling before the rock of the British defence. While the Germans have made gains of ground and have driven a wedge into the British lines to a considerable depth, they seem to have failed in their attempt to break through or take important railroad junctions. During the last day there have been bitterly fought engagements at four places, all on the northern side of the salient to the south of Ypres. Seven assaults against the British trenches at Messines, near the apex of the triangular dent in the British lines, have been hurled back by the British. Neuve Eglise, on the extreme southwestern spur of Messines Ridge, has been taken by the Germans after a struggle which will go into history as one of the greatest of the past week.

May Counter Attack.

The British, however, have not retired far and it is probable that they will at once organize a counter attack to force the Germans out of the town, which, if held, might be a "kicking off" point for an attack which might outflank and make untenable Messines Ridge, the key to the British positions about Ypres. Bailleul and Wulverghem, between Neuve Eglise and Messines, have also been the scenes of hard fighting, but, except for Neuve Eglise, the northern side of the salient has stood firm. On the southern side of the salient, according to Berlin, fierce struggles have been fought.

It has been the German plan of campaign since March 21, when the great offensive started, to strike hard at some particular sector and if that blow was parried, to turn powerfully against some new point. This procedure probably will be followed in the next few days by a new assault somewhere south of Arras.

Attempt on Amiens?

An attack north of Ypres is hardly possible, for the low lands of Belgium are as yet too waterlogged to permit active operations. An attack on Arras would entail the hurling of troops against Vimy Ridge, the Labyrinth and other formidable military works protecting that city.

It may be that the savage fighting reported at Hangard-En-Santerre, south of Albert, and on the center of the line facing Amiens, may mark the beginning of a new attempt to sweep westward toward Amiens. So far the fighting has brought the Germans only losses in men and ground. Further south, near Montdidier, there has been intense artillery firing, but the Germans have not attempted infantry operations in this important sector.

Heisingford Falls.

German troops have entered Heisingford, the Finnish capital. It was reported last week that the Russian warships which have been there had made their escape and had reached Kronstadt, the great Russian naval base.

American forces near Toul are standing firm before heavy attacks by the Germans and have held their lines intact in spite of all the weight of men and metal the enemy has loosed against them. The Germans have lost very heavily.

The constant German attacks in this sector may have some bearing on the development of the German offensive campaign and much interest in the situation throughout the region held by General Pershing's men is evidenced by the allied leaders.

Prague Outbreak.

Coincident with the report of the acceptance of the resignation of Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian premier, comes a report of a serious outbreak of the Czechs at Prague, which for many months has been reported to be seething with anti-Germanism, Bohemians, or at least the Czech minority.

CABINET CRISIS TO BE AVOIDED

Labor Ministers Have Satisfactory Conference with Prime Minister Lloyd George—Carson Appeals to Government.

London, April 15.—The labor ministers of the cabinet in an interview with Prime Minister Lloyd George tonight, pressed the premier to grant self-government to Ireland on the basis of the majority report of the Irish convention before conscription is put into operation. It is understood that the conference had satisfactory results and there will not be a cabinet crisis. During the consideration of the man power bill in committee of the House of Commons today, Sir Edward Carson appealed to the government to deal frankly with the Irish members in the House, and tell plainly what kind of machinery they intended to set up. He said he found great difficulty in understanding where they were under the bill and was beginning to have grave doubts whether the government really meant to put it into effect or not.

ELLEN HUNDRED RETURNED SOLDIERS

Big Steamship Arrived at Halifax Yesterday—Over Six Hundred Wives and Children on Board.

A big steamship arrived at Halifax yesterday from England with eleven hundred and four returned officers and soldiers and six hundred and seventy-five wives and children, dependents of soldiers and a few other civilians.

RETRENCHMENT IN ALL MATTERS IS MOST DESIRABLE

Ottawa, April 15.—Various questions of labor organizations in Canada were discussed today at a conference between members of the government and the executive committee of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and representatives of the different international unions in the country.

To all of the requests of the deputation the government promised consideration and the numerous matters were gone into fully. Sir Robert Borden urged the deputation to consider carefully the gravity of the financial situation as a result of the war, and pointed out that retrenchment in all matters was desirable.

The matters of increased salaries for letter carriers was first taken up. It being urged that they be increased to a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$1,400. The premier pointed out that although the public and the government were favorably disposed in this connection, yet the working out of salaries of this department would be considered from the standpoint of the public and the government. Other questions dealt with were old age pensions, an eight-hour day for men employed by the government, and extension of labor bureaus in connection with voluntary farm labor.

WANTS NO CIVIL WAR IN IRELAND

London, April 15.—Sir George Cave, home secretary, having repudiated Joseph Devlin's suggestion that the government wanted to provoke civil war in Ireland, explained that the government was in the matter of Ireland alike in the matter of England and Ireland. The only object of proposing a limit to the right of appeal, he said, was to diminish delay. More time was needed before tribunals could be set up in Ireland, but he had no doubt they would be appointed on recommendations from the local Irish government board.

Herbert Asquith, former premier, welcomed further concessions announced by Sir George, but still urged the government to go cautiously. Only a careful, sympathetic consideration of the special conditions of Irish life, he said, could surmount the almost insuperable difficulty. He still considered the government's decision as ill-timed and unnecessary.

Ority in that country, object to the creation of a German government there, but the incident may be more significant than has so far appeared. The Slav races of Bohemia have long been standing out against the Germanization of their country and the outbreak at Prague may be only another indication of the deep-seated opposition to the war aspirations of the Central Powers.

Nothing out of the ordinary has been reported from the Italian, Macedonian, Palestine or Mesopotamian theatres of the war.

ENEMY AGASS BEATEN BACK

British Headquarters in France, April 15, (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—There were several unsuccessful German attacks yesterday afternoon in the northern battle area. The enemy in considerable force pushed forward astride the Merville-Lamotte road, necessitating a withdrawal of our line, but our counter-attack completely restored the situation. About half past four two small attacks were made against our positions on Messines Ridge. They were beaten off after sharp fighting.

During the afternoon we pushed out our line of posts north of the La Bassee Canal between the Law and Clarence rivers. One of these was attacked by a strong party of the enemy, the final result being that one officer, five men and three machine guns were left in our hands.

Later in the evening, the enemy again determinedly attacked Neuve Eglise and a heavy struggle developed. Our guns are reported to be shelling the ruins of the place this morning, suggesting that the enemy has once more gained a footing, though probably they are counter-attacking. Prisoners state that the enemy's effort to break Bailleul is to be resumed this morning. We have retaken the hamlet of Reizdu-Vinage, three thousand yards east of Robecq, taking 150 prisoners and six machine guns.

Givency and Festubert have been heavily shelled by the Germans, who are using ammunition lavishly. On the extreme south of our line we made a minor attack upon the French, improving our positions north and east of Hangard Wood.

HARDEST FIGHT NEAR HANGARD

With the French Army in France, April 14, (Sunday)—The hardest fighting of the present battle south of the River Somme has been almost incessant around Hangard-En-Santerre since March 21. British and French have been engaged side by side in defending this highly important and strategic position on the road between Noyon and Amiens. Several times it has been wrested from them only to be retaken in a heroic counter-attack. On the fourth, ninth and twelfth of April the streets of Hangard were scenes of horrible carnage, both night and day, when the enemy was driven from house to house before the French battalions. On the latter date when the latest attack was delivered by the French, one of their battalions was surrounded in the overwhelming German advance.

The major commanding entrenched himself in the ruins of a castle from which he held the enemy in check for over ten hours, meanwhile signaling repeatedly for help and asking his comrades to hasten. The Major was captured but shortly afterward other French troops with a British battalion arrived and after a terrific onslaught reached the blazing castle. They rescued the survivors and took a hundred German prisoners, but the major with another officer had been carried off in the interim.

APPEAL TO THE BRITISH IN U.S.

New York, April 15.—An appeal to Englishmen and Canadians in the United States to make a personal application of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's special order of the day addressed to all ranks and hasten to the service was contained in a telegram from Major General C. B. Burnham, minister of militia, Ottawa, to the British and Canadian recruiting mission made public here today. "The call from overseas is such," said the message, "that I must ask you, one and all, not merely to 'carry on' but to do with renewed and special vigor. Every man of military age is needed, as needed now, Faith must be kept with those who are fighting as well as with those who have fallen."

SEEDING PROGRESSING

Winnipeg, April 15.—According to week-end reports by farmers, seeding operations all through the district are now generally in full swing and the work is making good progress. Although no figures are as yet available, it is expected that the district will show a very appreciable increase in the acreage sown.

Amsterdam, April 15.—A semi-official news agency quotes Lieutenant-General Dr. Otto Von Schiering, general-governor of the German army, as saying in an interview that a serum against poison gas has recently been discovered.

New York, April 15.—Provost marshal calls for 49,443 men for the mobilization ordered for May 1st. 19 per cent. of third liberty loan subscribers. Treasury Department says reports from all districts optimistic, but some fear is expressed that over confidence may hamper sales. Congress to speed up legislation on adjustment may be had within a few days. Subscriptions to third liberty loan filed with federal reserve banks of New York total \$238,272,460.

HUNS CHECKED AT BAILLEUL

Heavy Fighting Still in Progress at Critical Point on Flanders Front.

London, April 15.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The enemy is held around Neuve Eglise. Telegraphing late this evening, Reuter's correspondent says: "The enemy renewed his attacks on Bailleul, but his onslaught was broken up by our artillery."

Official Report.

London, April 15.—Bailleul and Wulverghem were the central points of the heavy fighting today between British and Germans in Flanders, while the German artillery displayed increased activity in the section between Givency and Robecq, according to the report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight. The report says: "Fighting occurred this afternoon in the neighborhood of Bailleul and Wulverghem and is continuing. On the remainder of the Lys battlefield there is nothing particularly to report."

"The hostile artillery has shown activity in certain sectors, particularly between Givency and Robecq. Bodies of German infantry moving along La Fosse-Etaires road were effectively engaged by our artillery."

"On the other parts of the British front there was no important incident."

QUOTATIONS IN ST. JOHN MARKET

Groceries.	
Sugar—	
Standard	\$9.05 @ \$9.10
Yellow	8.55 " 8.60
Rice	9.50 " 9.60
Taplock	0.17 " 0.18
Yellow-eyed	15.50 " 15.60
White	0.75 " 0.80
Cream of Tartar	0.81 " 0.86
Molasses	0.87 " 0.92
Peanut oil, bags	12.50 " 12.60
Barley, pot, bags	6.50 " 6.75
Corneal, gran.	0.00 " 14.50
Choice, seeded	0.12 1/2 " 0.12 3/4
Fancy, seeded	0.12 3/4 " 0.13 1/4
Salt, Liverpool, per sack, ex store	2.10 " 2.15
Soda, bicarb.	4.35 " 4.40
Canned Goods.	
Corn, per doz.	2.50 " 2.55
Beans	2.40 " 2.45
Baked	2.60 " 2.65
String	2.50 " 2.55
Beef—	
Corned 1s.	4.00 " 4.35
Corned 2s.	4.00 " 4.35
Pineapple, sliced	2.50 " 2.60
Peanut	2.80 " 2.90
Peaches, 2s.	2.30 " 2.40
Plums, Lombard	2.00 " 2.05
Raspberries	3.10 " 3.20
Salmon—(Per case)	11.00 " 11.35
Flake	13.75 " 14.00
Cakes	7.50 " 7.75
Oysters—(Per doz.)	2.30 " 2.35
2s.	3.40 " 3.70
Tomatoes	2.70 " 2.75
Strawberries	3.10 " 3.30
Flour.	
Government standard 0.00	12.05 " 12.05
Ontario	11.85 " 11.90
Oatmeal, standard 0.00	12.00 " 12.00
(No quotation.)	
Oatmeal, rolled 0.00	13.00 " 13.00
Provisions.	
Pork, Am. clear	65.00 " 68.00
Beef, Am. plate	58.00 " 61.00
Lard, pure	0.32 " 0.33 1/2
Lard, comp. tubs	0.27 " 0.27 1/2
Meats, Etc.	
Beef—	
Western	0.17 " 0.19 1/2
Country	0.12 " 0.16
Butchers'	0.16 " 0.20
Eggs, case	0.45 " 0.47
Eggs, fresh	0.00 " 0.50
Spring lamb	0.00 " 0.25
Pork	0.25 " 0.35
Veal	0.16 " 0.18
Mutton	0.13 " 0.20
Butter—	
Tub	0.40 " 0.44
Roll	0.42 " 0.44
Chicken	0.00 " 0.45
Fowl	0.35 " 0.40
Potatoes, barrel	2.75 " 3.00
Fruits, Etc.	
Almonds	0.24 " 0.25
Bananas	3.50 " 3.60
N.B. Apples	2.50 " 2.60
Walnuts	0.25 " 0.26
Dates, new	0.00 " 0.17
Filberts	0.22 " 0.23
Lemons	8.00 " 10.00
Cal. Oranges	7.00 " 9.00
Canadian Onions, bags 0.00	2.50 " 2.60
Peanuts, roasted	0.20 " 0.25
Fish.	
Cod—	
Medium	9.25 " 9.50
Finnan Haddies	0.00 " 0.14
Herring	0.00 " 0.14
Gr. Mackerel, 1/2-bbls. 0.00	3.00 " 3.00
Herring, kippered, box 0.00	0.00 " 0.10
Haddock	0.00 " 0.12
Halibut	0.00 " 0.22
Oats, Feed, Etc.	
Oats, per bushel	1.15 " 1.20
Oats, car lots, bush. 1.10	1.10 " 1.15
Barley, car lots, bags 48.00	48.00 " 49.00
Hay, car lots, ton	16.00 " 17.00
Middlings, small lots 49.50	50.00 " 51.00
Oils, Etc.	
Royalite	0.00 " 0.19
Premium motor gaso-	0.00 " 0.56
Palatine	0.00 " 0.52
Turpentine	0.00 " 0.77
By barrel, \$2.00 charged.	

Spring Overcoats Ready for Wear.

For young men of all ages, overcoats were never made more becoming, attractive and comfortable.

Our line at \$15 to \$35 includes such a variety in color, cut, model and fabric that the most particular man can find his special idea.

A new assortment just right to meet the first break of Spring.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

April—Phases of the Moon.	
Last Quarter	4th 9h. 32m. a.m.
New Moon	11th 0h. 34m. a.m.
First Quarter	17th 12midnight
Full Moon	26th 4h. 5m. a.m.
Date	
16 Tue.	5.41 7.05 8.23 15.53 3.28 32.13
17 Wed.	5.40 7.07 8.23 15.57 4.28 32.10

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Northerly winds; fair and cool.
Northern New England—Fair Tuesday and probably Wednesday. Light variable winds.
Toronto, Ont., April 15.—The weather has been showery today in Saskatchewan and in all other parts of the dominion. It has been moderately warm in Manitoba and Ontario and western Quebec; elsewhere rather cool.

Dawson	
Prince Rupert	36 40
Victoria	38 50
Vancouver	36 50
Kamloops	32 56
Calgary	32 43
Edmonton	30 46
Battleford	38 48
Medicine Hat	38 54
The Pas	30 68
Fort Nelson	32 62
Winnipeg	42 72
Port Arthur	30 48
Parry Sound	30 58
London	32 73
Toronto	36 72
Ottawa	36 72
Montreal	42 72
Quebec	32 56
St. John	32 58
Halifax	32 49

CHILDREN HATE PILLS, CALOMEL AND CASTOR OIL

If cross, feverish, constipated, give "California Syrup of Figs."

Look back at your childhood days. Remember the "dose" mother insisted on—castor oil, calomel, cathartics. How you hated them, how you fought against them. Now you are a mother. With our children it's different. Mothers who cling to the old form of physic simply don't realize what they do. The children's revolt is well founded. Their tender little "insides" are injured by them. If your child's stomach, liver and bowels need cleansing, give only "California Syrup of Figs." Millions of mothers keep this harmless "fruit laxative" handy; they know children love to take it; that it never fails to clean the liver and bowels and sweeten the stomach; and that a teaspoonful given today saves a sick child tomorrow. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on each bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. See that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

New York, April 15.—While the greatest battle in the history of the world is being fought, with the greatest consequences at stake that have ever been put in jeopardy, the atmosphere of the business and financial world is overhung with subduing seriousness. There is firm confidence everywhere in the final outcome of the war, and determination, which precludes discouragement, that efforts shall be doubled and quadrupled. As to the immediate situation, notwithstanding fluctuating reverses, the best informed opinion voices confidence in a present favorable outcome.

The battle news and the Loan campaign have both contributed towards lower levels. It is probable that the Liberty Loan effects would have been negligible if it were not for the long drawn-out indecisions of the terrible struggle at the Western front, and the market will probably continue to respond to war news. Should the outcome be decided unfavorably, a break in stocks might occur, but the great bulk of them are in strong hands, and if sharp selling should result, a gain buying would absorb and counteract the movement.

J. S. BACHE & CO.

WANTED—At the Exchange Hotel, East Florenceville, N. B., a cook C. M. Dow, Prop.

