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COUNTER THRUST EXPECTED

Situation is Satisfactory to the Allies, Say Official Reports, Which Give Hint of Flanking Movement Against the Enemy—Two-Thirds of German Reserves Thrown Into Fight, While British Reserves Have Not Been Called on—American Troops Are Now in the Big Fight.

BARRIER OF ALLIED ARMIES BREAKS EACH GERMAN EFFORT

Official Message From Paris Shows That the Enemy, Though Suffering Huge Losses, Has Failed to Obtain His Objectives and That Situation Is Satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—France's confidence that the great German offensive is wasting its strength against the allied line is expressed in an official despatch received here today from Paris. The message quotes at length from today's Petit Journal to show that the Germans, though suffering tremendous losses in massed advances, have failed to obtain their objectives, and that the present situation is satisfactory to the allies.

Following is the despatch: "The French press continues to view with calm confidence the developments of the gigantic battle which has been going on for five days. This confidence is based upon all the experiences of this war. Each time that the Germans have attempted a movement against the troops in the west, the effort, after a certain amount of success, always of a temporary character, has ended in being broken against the barrier of the allied armies."

"The great example before all minds is that of the Marne, where the Germans had every advantage on her side, thanks to her preparation, to the superiority of her man-power and her heavy artillery and her hidden attack across violated Belgium; but she was defeated. Today she is fighting against the powerful Franco-British armies accustomed to war and well supplied with the firm and calm conviction of French opinion, the expression of which is seen this morning in the press.

firmly by the reports of our aviators. A terrified German said that more than half of his regiment had been killed and he could not understand how he had escaped."

Objectives Not Reached. "The military critic of The Journal makes the observation that the German command is far from having attained his objective. He writes: 'The Germans, the plan of limited objectives. He announces the success of the first phase of the battle with a haste which does not precisely indicate an overwhelming confidence in the future. If we must take the Germans at their word we have then the right to affirm that at the end of four days they have not reached the objectives which according to their own plans, had been assigned them for the first day. In reality the line in front of which they have stopped would, if conquered, have been the first great result of the action.'

"The Petit Journal also gave a re-

sumé of the military situation as follows: 'The Germans have in front of them an adversary whose tenacity is well known and who has at his disposal every means and every resource to continue the struggle victoriously. On the other hand, one must not forget that the Germans for the reason of their advance and in spite of the arrival of reserves will find it necessary to pause and bring up their heavy artillery to the new line of combat. The English can then count upon a certain delay to prepare for the new attack which they will have to meet. To support them the French are on their right, south of Tergnier, ready for any advance. Thus then in spite of the English withdrawal and for reason of the sanguinary losses sustained by the enemy the situation is not of a nature to disturb in any way our confidence in the issue of the battle which has but commenced and whose development in the near future we can await without inquietude.'

MUCH HAVOC DONE BY AIRCRAFT WORK

British Aviators Extensively Bomb Dense Masses of German Troops.

London, March 26.—An official statement of the aerial operations says tonight:

"On Monday our airplanes were employed almost entirely in bombing the enemy's troops and transport massed in the areas behind the battlefront and in attacking them with machine gun fire from low heights. Twenty-two tons of bombs were dropped in this work and over 100,000 rounds were fired from the machine guns.

"All our pilots reported that the ground targets offered by the enemy were of a surprising nature. They were able to drop their bombs with accuracy and fire with effect right into the centre of infantry battalions in close formation and into columns of cavalry and transport.

"A certain amount of fighting in the air took place, but it was less intense than on the previous day. Thirteen hostile airplanes were brought down and ten were driven down out of control. Eight of our machines were missing. The majority of our casualties were caused by the low flying machines by fire from the ground.

"During the night our night flying airplanes continued to bomb and attack with machine gun fire the enemy's troops in the forward areas and the transport on the roads leading to the front."

TERRIFIC ASSAULT IS MET DOGGEDLY AND GALLANTLY

Allies Are in Better Condition to Contest German Advance Than They Have Been Since the Beginning of the Offensive.

AFTER six days of terrific fighting, the German offensive in France is beginning to show signs of losing its momentum. The progress of the enemy has materially slackened and the form of the dent made in the allied line west of Cambrai has begun to resemble the familiar wedge-like salient, instead of the broad, straightforward movement of an offensive which carries all before it.

At its apex this wedge has gone beyond Albert, to the south of that place, and is to the westward of the old allied line as it stood a year ago when Von Hindenburg began his "strategic retreat." From this point the line runs off to the northeast at a gentle angle, and to the south running back until it reaches the Oise River.

In spite of tremendous exertions and terrific losses, the German efforts to widen the tip of this salient were defeated on Tuesday. The British lines have stood firm to the north and have forced the Germans to turn southward toward the point of least resistance.

Official statements issued at London confirm the report from Berlin that American forces are engaged in the struggle. They are reported as "fighting shoulder to shoulder" with the French and British in the region of Roye, on the southern side of the salient driven into the allied front.

Ready to Strike Back. With the slackening of the German pace there come indications that the allies are ready to strike back somewhere along the front. Just where this blow will be launched, will not be known until it is struck, but it may be expected that its impact will be terrific. It is known that the allied war council at Versailles created a great strategic reserve of men to be used in just the contingency which confronts the armies which have borne the brunt of the fighting since last Thursday morning. This force probably will be launched when and where it is believed it will break the force of the German onslaught, and send the enemy reeling back over the desert from which the British have slowly withdrawn.

Each succeeding day reveals the plan of the allied lines west of Cambrai, a certain which could not be defended by Von Hindenburg a year ago. Each official report shows that this sector is valueless from a military standpoint, and that the Germans have paid a terrible price for their advance to the lines established by the allies during the first two years of warfare. It is officially reported that seventy German divisions, or 840,000 men, have taken part in the fighting, and that troops have been moved from every part of the western battlefront to reinforce the armies which have been forcing the British to fall back. Observers at the front say that the German losses have been frightful, and that the enemy has lost from ten to twenty per cent. of his men, by the most conservative estimates.

BRITISH ARMY INSPIRED BY CANADIAN MESSAGE

Sir Douglas Haig Cables Gratitude to Duke of Devonshire.

Ottawa, March 26.—The Duke of Devonshire has received the following message from the British commander in reply to a message sent by the governor-general on behalf of the Canadian people:

"The inspiring message of comradeship and confidence which you have been good enough to send me on behalf of the Canadian people is encouraging to all ranks of the British army in France. I beg you to convey to your advisers our grateful thanks for your message and the expression of our determination to do all that men can do to uphold the honor and safety of the empire in the great battle which is now raging.

(Signed) "Douglas Haig."

ENEMY RESERVES ARE DRAWN UPON HEAVILY

Nearly Two-Thirds of Strategic Army Thrown Into Fierce and Continued Attack.

London, March 27.—Telegraphing late on Tuesday the correspondent of The Daily Mail at British headquarters in France says that nearly two-thirds of the entire strategic reserve of the German army has now been thrown into the fierce and vigorously continued attack.

"This German reserve," he adds, "consisted of eighty-five divisions, totaling 1,275,000 men, out of a total number now reaching not far short of 200 divisions, or possibly 3,000,000 men, which they have upon the western front. After the first day 33 of these divisions were put into the battle. On the third day another 21 are known to have taken part. Since then they must have drawn upon the reserves for a few more divisions.

"It is therefore clear that we have been struggling with the whole available strength of the German army, and the marvel is that our soldiers have held out so obstinately and steadily against odds so heavily against them."

Heavy Gas Shelling Marks Operations of Americans

With the American Army in France, March 26.—The American artillery continues heavily to shell towns held by the Germans, and German batteries in the Toul sector, with gas. The Germans themselves have reciprocated in kind, but the doses of gas sent against them by the Americans have been twice as large as they have received. The Town of Ribecourt, north of Xivray, one of the targets of the Americans, has been abandoned, so far as American patrols which reconnoitered near the town, are able to determine.

New Attacks Are Launched In Chaulnes' Neighborhood

Battle Continues on Whole Front South of the Somme River—American Troops Now Fighting With French and British.

LONDON, March 26.—The battle continues on the whole front south of the Somme River, Field Marshal Haig reports from the war zone in France tonight. The Germans have also launched new attacks around Chaulnes.

been pressed vigorously with fresh German divisions against Noyon and Roye.

"This afternoon new hostile attacks commenced in the neighborhood of Chaulnes and between Chaulnes and the Somme, to the north of it. The battle is continuing on the whole front south of the Somme.

"In the past six days of constant fighting our troops on all parts of the battle front have shown the utmost courage. In addition to those British divisions which have already been mentioned, exceptional gallantry was shown also by the following: The Eighth, Eighteenth, Thirty-first, Forty-first, Sixty-first, Sixty-third and Sixty-sixth divisions."

"North of the Somme local fighting has taken place at different points. Much movement of hostile troops and transport has been observed in the battle area and these have been engaged by our artillery and airplanes.

"South of the Somme the hostile attacks reported this morning have

thought, was from the flanking position the French held tenaciously tonight along the left bank of the Oise.

Today's official British reports, while admitting further German advances in the capture of Roye, indicated a decided slowing up of the direct progress of the drive against the British front. The official statements indicated that the Germans saw danger in the exposure of their left flank to the threat of the French line on the River Oise. Evacuation of Noyon gave the French a river line to hold against the Germans on a front that paralleled the Oise of ammunition and supply trains to the more advanced German forces in the region of Roye. Bitter assaults against this French line were made through the day without avail. Meanwhile the evacuation of Roye by the British served to extend still further the German supply lines, against which a French assault might be launched.

Turning Point Is Near Allied Reserves Ready

Reports From British Front Hint at Preparedness for Powerful Counter Thrust From Flanking Position Held by the French.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—An air of expectancy was apparent tonight among American and other military officials here, who are following most closely the developments of the battle in France. They appeared to feel that a turning point in the terrific struggle was close at hand. Press reports from the British front hinted at the same feeling there.

Attention centres here now on the French front, rather than on the progress made by the Germans against the British lines. As the battle proceeds, officers here are becoming certain the defenders are carrying out a definite plan, of which the British withdrawal is a part, but which will prove soon to be coupled with a powerful counter thrust. The most probable place for the launching of such a movement, it was

Amiens at All Costs. "The Petit Journal says: 'It appears that while attacking from the beginning on the whole of the front, the Germans have brought their principal efforts to the west of St. Quentin. In this acting they wished to upset the English, reach the Somme, and to secure for themselves in this direction a route to Amiens, which they want at all costs to possess in order to separate the English from the French armies. It is for this objective the German centre has made for three days such gigantic efforts. Hindered by the force of the heroic resistance of the English, Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, English, French and American troops, determined to realize his program by passing around the obstruction by the north. It is thus that he ordered his right wing operating north of Peronne to engage itself completely under the furious blows of the assailants the English have been obliged to withdraw, but the obstinacy with which they have fought has permitted them to take the necessary measures to oppose the plans of the enemy.

"Finally the left wing operating south of St. Quentin appears to have had for its mission the object of effecting a diversion in order to favor the march toward Amiens. Prince Rupprecht expected undoubtedly that his troops marching in the direction of Paris would absorb the attention of the adversary. But the intervention of the French troops has disturbed this calculation. Our politics, although much less numerous, have replaced the English in this sector, so that our allies can dispose of all their reserves to continue the fight on the other sectors. The defensive struggle is continuing in the region north of Noyon while waiting for the right moment to give a counter thrust.

Horrible German Losses. "The Germans have not done anything further than apply the formula from which they cannot depart, but which they plan on a colossal scale. Everywhere the Germans have attacked in such close waves that the individuals could hardly be distinguished from each other. The result of this practice is that they have suffered horrible losses. All the prisoners relate, for there are a good many German prisoners, that they are advancing over heaps of dead. This fact is also con-

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Sanguinary Struggle In Progress at Roye.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 26.—The Germans today followed up their progress of yesterday at Nesle, on the southern battle front, by launching a terrific assault against the British along a line running roughly between Hattencourt and the region of Roye. The British, co-operating with their French allies,

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The American artillery also is keeping up a stream of other shells on enemy positions in this region. St. Baumont, northeast of Ribecourt, has been heavily shelled with high explosive projectiles, while German first line trenches repeatedly have been hit and leveled, and enemy dugouts and snipers' posts completely silenced.

