

ALLIES RETAKE MOREUIL, 7 MILES FROM AMIENS

FRENCH MOW DOWN GERMAN BATTALIONS NEAR MOREUIL

Latter Town Changed Hands Four Times During Furious Fighting But Is Finally Held Through Incomparable Bravery Of British And French Troops Mingled In Same Ranks—Germans Are Completely Checked Between Moreuil and Lessigny

BULLETIN—Paris, March 31.—In the woods north of Moreuil the struggle was intense. Moreuil is nine miles from Amiens. The French took many prisoners in this region. The official announcement follows:

The struggle was continued with undiminished violence during the night and the result was to emphasize the check administered to the formidable German effort of yesterday to break through the line. Between Montdidier and Moreuil the fire of the French infantry mowed down German battalions which renewed their assault without ceasing. Moreuil, captured by the Germans, was retaken by the French, again taken by the Germans and finally carried in a bayonet charge made with incomparable bravery by French and British troops mingled in the same ranks.

The woods north of Moreuil also were captured as the result of valiant fighting. In this region the French took many prisoners. Between Moreuil and Lessigny the checking of the Germans, it has been established, was complete. The French were able to make progress as far as the vicinity of Canny-SurMatz. A division of picked troops which, as announced last night, recaptured Plémont and held it against all attacks, took seven hundred prisoners. On the remainder of the front there was intermittent cannonading. Three German raids on the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) were without result.

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 31.—Strong enemy patrols in the Arras sector penetrated the British outpost line north of Arras and forced the posts to withdraw after a brief but intense fight. This appeared to be the only change in the lines before Arras.

Berlin Statement.

Berlin, via London, Mar. 30.—Between the Somme and the Aisne the Germans have driven from parts of their foremost positions British and French troops freshly brought up and have captured Beaumont and Miezies, the war office announces. French attacks against Montdidier are said to have failed.

STILL GREAT MENACE IN THE SITUATION SOUTH OF SOMME

Fate of Amiens Hangs in Balance and Further Attacks Looked for—Bravery of the British.

London, Mar. 30.—Hopes that the German rush has been checked definitely have been raised by the defeat which the enemy has suffered in his first attempt to capture Arras. However it is realized there is still a great menace in the situation south of the Somme and that the fate of Amiens hangs in the balance. Further attacks are looked for.

THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED

London, Mar. 30.—Premier Lloyd George says:

"For the first few days after the German army launched upon our lines an attack unparalleled in its concentration of troops and guns, the situation was extremely critical. Thanks to the indomitable bravery of our troops, who gradually stemmed the enemy advance until reinforcements could arrive and our faithful ally could enter into the battle, the situation is now improved."

The struggle, however, is only in its opening stages and no prediction of its future course can yet be made. From the first day the war cabinet has been in constant session and in communication with headquarters and with the French and American governments. A number of measures have been taken in concert between the governments to deal with the emergency. The enemy has had the tactical advantage of fighting as one army. To meet this the Allies have since the battle begun taken a most important decision with the cordial cooperation of the British and French commanders in chief, General Foch has been charged by the British, French and American governments to co-ordinate the action of the allied armies on the western front.

In addition to the action taken to meet the immediate needs of the moment, it will be necessary to bring into operation certain measures, which have long been in contemplation, in order to deal with the situation which is clear that whatever may happen in this battle the country must be prepared for further sacrifices to

ENEMY ATTACKS THROWN BACK

Special to The Standard. London, Mar. 31.—The Germans forced their way into the village of Demuin yesterday but were held up at the western outskirts of the village, according to the statement issued by the war office last night which also reports enemy attacks on the line a short distance south of Arras.

The statement reads: "North of the Somme, after a short lull, yesterday, the battle broke out afresh this morning. The enemy repeated his costly and unsuccessful assault both in the region of Boly and Bolyelles and immediately north of the Somme. All these assaults, which were delivered in considerable strength and with fresh troops, were thrown back with heavy losses to the enemy and our positions remained intact. We took a number of prisoners. A heavy bombardment of our defenses east of Arras accompanied the delivery of the attack. South of the Somme and between that river and the Aisne, fighting has continued incessantly, attacks and counter-attacks taking place at frequent intervals. The enemy forced his way this morning into the village of Demuin, in the Luce Valley, but is held up at the western outskirts of the village."

CANADIANS IN THE FIGHTING

London, Mar. 30.—A despatch describes an extension of the fighting farther to the north, at Cite St. Auguste, a mile north of Lens, opposite Loos. The previous northern point of intensive bombardment was at Arras, a mile south of Lens, and the extreme northern flank of the German infantry operations was at Acheville, two and half miles to the southeast.

A heavy German concentration on the Verdun front was reported by the correspondent of the Amsterdam Handelsblad, who personally visited that sector. Shortly after the start of the drive German military officials publicly announced that attacks on even a greater scale would be made, "on their fronts" and initiated these from the Verdun front, but in held up at the western outskirts of the village."

One British division marched from nine o'clock one evening until four o'clock the next afternoon and then lunged itself into the battle line where it fought and killed and dug in until its position was assured. Then these soldiers threw themselves down where they stood all day with their heads pillowed on their haversacks. There were other instances even more spectacular which may not be mentioned.

HUNS RETREAT IN DISORDER

Paris, Mar. 30.—The battle on the Moreuil-Lassigny front continued the whole day extended along sixty kilometres, says the war office announcement tonight. The German assaults, multiplied in force were incessant, but French counter-attacks everywhere stopped the onslaught.

The text of the statement follows: "The battle on the front from Moreuil to Lessigny continued all day with the greatest violence and spread over front of sixty kilometres. The German forces, in spite of enormous losses in their ranks by our fire, have multiplied their assaults against our line, which have been met desperately by our heroic troops, who by their incessant counter-attacks have stopped everywhere the furious assaults of the enemy."

The region of Orville, Plémont and Plézier de Roy has been the theatre of furious fighting, these villages changing hands several times. Two German divisions, which had succeeded in getting a foothold in Plémont and in the park of Plézier de Roy, were swept back again by a magnificent counter-attack by our troops, which have re-established their lines. "At certain points masses of the assaulting forces were taken under the terrible fire of our artillery and were forced to retreat in disorder. The losses of the enemy in the whole battle zone still exceed those of the preceding day."

ensuring final victory, I am certain that the nation will shrink from no sacrifice which is required to secure this result, and the necessary plans are being fully prepared."

SITUATION NOW MORE HOPEFUL

Paris, Mar. 30.—Conditions in the great battle are now more favorable to the Allies, says Henri Rido in the "Journal Des Debats." His argument is as follows:

"The Germans, having put into the fighting their mass of reserve three or four days before the Allies, the latter beat back under the shock, but it is inevitable that what is a disadvantage today will become an advantage when the allied reserves have their turn. At the present moment this fresh mass in the hands of the chief gave him a liberty of action which the enemy does not possess."

London, Mar. 29.—A hopeful view of the situation is given by the Morning Post's correspondent at the front. "The greatest crisis is thought to be over," he says. "Fresh troops are coming up steadily and new batteries are laying the foundations of formidable protective barrages."

"There are signs that the enemy is being pushed for reserves. He has thrown in one of his naval divisions, which he has not done hitherto unless caught short handed in an exciting situation."

HUN STATEMENT

Special to The Standard. Berlin, Mar. 30, via London.—The German war office says: "Between the Somme and the Oise we made progress in our attacks."

The statement follows: "Between the Somme and the Aisne we drove out the English and French troops, which rushed to their assistance from parts of their foremost positions and captured Beaumont and Miezies. Fresh attacks against Montdidier failed. Aisette has been cleared of enemy forces. The situation north of the Somme is unchanged. The French fire is completing the destruction of Lezon cathedral, which has been considerably damaged by the continuous bombardment. Lieut. Bongartz brought down his 32nd and 33rd opponents and Lieut. Udet his 22nd. In the other theatres of the war there is nothing new to report."

PARIS AGAIN BOMBARDED

Special to The Standard. Paris, Mar. 30.—Paris was again bombarded by the long distance German cannon this morning. There have been few casualties. Eight dead, among whom are four women and 37 wounded including 3 women and 7 children were the casualties resulting from the bombardment today.

VIOLENT BATTLE BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND HUNS IN PROGRESS

Fresh Troops Continue to Arrive in Support of Petain's Men Fighting on Area Extending from 40 Kilometres from Moreuil Beyond Lessigny.

Paris Mar. 30.—The French official statement tonight follows: "The battle was resumed with new violence during the night and is in progress on front of forty kilometres from Moreuil to beyond Lessigny. French troops, supported by French reserves, which continue to arrive, are offering powerful resistance to the violent assaults of the Germans."

"On Wednesday and Thursday French aviators, notwithstanding the bad weather, continued their attacks against the German machines. Flying in groups, the French airmen attacked the Germans with bombs and machine guns on the battle line and in the concentration zones. Several French machines made as many as three of these expeditions on the same day. Seventeen thousand kilograms (more than eighteen tons) of projectiles were thrown down in the regions of Guiscard and Ham. French pursuit squadrons, of which seven were destroyed and six were damaged badly. Furthermore two captive balloons were set on fire."

BRITISH VICTORY

London, Mar. 30.—The British command which recently won a striking victory on the front along the Euphrates river in Mesopotamia, putting out of action the entire Turkish force in the Hitt area, has advanced to a point sixty-three miles beyond Hitt, the war office announces. The number of prisoners has been increased to 5,000.

BRITISH DESTROYER SUNK, 41 LOST!

Special to The Standard. London, Mar. 30.—A British destroyer struck a mine Wednesday and sank, it is officially announced. One officer and forty men were lost.

U.S. SEIZES SIX GERMAN MILLS

Washington, Mar. 30.—Six great German owned New Jersey woolen mills, with a total valuation of more than \$70,000,000 have been taken over by the alien property custodian, who has named governing boards of directors to assume control of them. The earnings of the properties during the war will go into the federal treasury for the purchase of Liberty bonds.

LUXEMBURG BOMBED

Special to The Standard. Amsterdam, Mar. 30.—Advices from Berlin say that at 12.45 Thursday afternoon allied airmen attacked the town of Luxembourg. Ten killed have thus far been reported and houses were heavily damaged.

BULGARS IN FRANCE

Special to The Standard. Paris, Mar. 31.—Official announcement was made today that the presence on the Franco-British front of Bulgarian and Austrian troops has now been established.

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