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WHOLE BRITISH LINE STANDS FIRMLY—ONE INCH OF GROUND LOST

FRATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE NEUVE EGLISE HAVE FAILED

Germans Also Are Beaten Off in Attempt Against British Defences Near Festubert.

London, April 14.—The British line from Metzeren to Wulverghem, on the northern side of the battlefield near the Franco-Belgian border, was maintained against strong German attacks last night, lasting into the night, is announced in today's war office statement. Early in the night the enemy's fourth attack of the day upon Neuve Eglise was repulsed. The Germans also were beaten off in an attempt against the British defences near Festubert on the southerly side of this front.

Last night, after heavy fighting all day, the British line along all parts of the Lys battle front (where the German thrust is to the west, and southwest) was reported to be intact.

The battle was resumed about Neuve Eglise in the course of the night and the Germans renewed their attacks near Bailleul. The fighting on this front is continuing.

The text of the statement reads: "After heavy fighting lasting throughout the evening, strong attacks launched by the enemy yesterday afternoon from Metzeren to Wulverghem were repulsed."

"Early in the night the enemy again attacked at Neuve Eglise for the fourth time during the day and once more was repulsed."

"In addition to the attacks already reported, the enemy made a determined attempt yesterday against our defences in the neighborhood of Festubert and was beaten off."

"On this portion of the battle front and northwards an air battle with numerous bodies of hostile troops were effectively engaged during the evening at short range by our infantry and artillery fire."

"At the end of the day of continuous fighting, and frequent assaults, many of them delivered with great strength on all parts of the battle front, our line was reported to be intact."

"The enemy's losses throughout yesterday's fighting are reported to have been most severe."

"In the course of the night fighting was renewed about Neuve Eglise, and this morning the enemy recommenced his attacks in the neighborhood of Bailleul. Fighting is continuing on this front."

SECOND LETTER TO POPE

Part of Vast Pacific Offensive on the Part of Austria and Germany.

Rome, April 14.—The Italian press, commenting on the controversy that has arisen between the French premier, M. Clemenceau, and the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Count Czernin, insists that at the time Emperor Charles wrote to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, another letter was sent to the Pope.

The Idea Nazionale says that the second letter was designed to complete, as relating to Italy, the letter as relating to France, and had for its object invoking the intervention of the holy see in favor of peace.

The Tribune says that it was all a part of a vast "pacific offensive" on the part of Austria and Germany, and that it was a joint movement to deceive both France and the Vatican.

According to another source, the letter to the Pope was written by Empress Zita.

GRAIN FOR HOLLAND

Popular Relief at The Hague Over United States Offer.

The Hague, April 14.—The announcement of the American war trade board's offer to send immediately two shiploads of American grain to Holland and to facilitate the sending of a third shipload from Argentina occasioned considerable popular relief here thru the prospect that the distress owing to the shortage of food supplies would be alleviated.

"The German long-range gun continued thru Saturday night and Sunday to bombard Paris. The material damage was slight, and only one person—a woman—was killed."

American Minister Garratt yesterday communicated to the German Government's offer to the foreign office, where it is under careful consideration, but no immediate decision will be taken pending the receipt of adequate assurances regarding the safety in the war zone of the outgoing and incoming vessels in question.

FOCH'S NEW TITLE

Commander-in-Chief of Allied Armies in France.

Paris, April 14.—An official note issued tonight says: "The British and French Governments have agreed to confer the title of commander-in-chief of the allied armies in France on General Foch."

OBSTINATE BATTLES NOW TAKING PLACE

Thruout Saturday Night and Sunday Enemy Made Repeated Onslaughts.

DEFENCE IS STONEWALL

Price Paid by Germans to Break Thru Is Enormous.

The entire allied line in Belgium and France is holding firm. Nowhere have the Germans been able, notwithstanding the great numbers of men hurled against it, especially that portion in Flanders where the British are holding forth, to gain an inch of ground.

Field Marshal Haig's order that no more ground be ceded is rigidly being complied with, as is attested by the thousands of German dead now lying before the British positions southwest of Ypres, where it is the ambition of the high German command to break thru and envelop Field Marshal Haig's forces and gain an open highway toward the English channel.

Quiet on French Lines. Along the front held by the French Sunday saw nothing of greater importance than reciprocal bombardments on various sectors, the troops of both sides remaining in their trenches. Likewise in Italy the big guns were doing most of the work, although several points enemy patrols attempted to carry out diversions, but met with no success.

At Neuve Eglise, northwest of Arras, where the Germans are trying to break thru their wedge in farther in order to outflank Ypres, the heaviest fighting has taken place. Thruout Saturday night and Sunday the most obstinate character took place, the Germans throwing thousands of men into the attack, notwithstanding their wastage in killed and wounded. Several times the village changed hands, but at last reports the British were still in possession of it and holding tenaciously upon repeated German onslaughts.

High Price Paid. Nowhere along the eight-mile front where the Germans are trying to break thru between Wulverghem and Metzeren have the Germans met with anything but repulse, and the price they have paid for their attempts to breach the British line has been enormous. On no other sector have they been able to surmount the stone wall of the defence and, for the moment at least, there seems to be justification for the hope that the turn in the tide of battle is at hand.

Documents captured from German prisoners show conclusively that the new great offensive of the Germans was launched with the intention of separating the British and French armies and the crushing of the British.

Enemy Claims Gains. The latest German official communication dealing with the situation in the region of St. Mihiel, where the Americans are defending the line, says that the Germans in a comparatively narrow area on Lys plain, fighting is expected to continue with extreme ferocity.

Holiday for Berlin Children

To Celebrate German "Victory"

Amsterdam, April 14.—The school children of Berlin and the Province of Brandenburg, according to the Tageblatt, will be given a holiday Monday to celebrate "the victory of the Americans."

SHACKLETON IN NEW YORK

British Explorer Returning to United States From South America.

New York, April 14.—The end of the war will come when the German people really learn how their soldiers have been slain in countless numbers and when they realize how the world feels toward the German nation, in the opinion of Sir Ernest H. Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, who arrived here today from South America.

LIEUT. COLE WOUNDED

London, April 14.—Lieut. Alan Cole, York and Lancasters, has been wounded a second time. He is a son of Skelton Cole of Sheffield, and at the opening of the war he was ranching in Alberta.

TO INCREASE FLOW OF REINFORCEMENTS

Cabinet Considers Amendments to the Military Service Act.

A STATEMENT TODAY

Certain That All Exemptions Granted Will Be Subject to Review.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, April 14.—There was an emergency meeting of the cabinet this evening which lasted until well after midnight. At its conclusion the prime minister announced to the waiting correspondents that he had no announcement to make for the present. It was learned, however, that the critical military situation was under review and that measures will be taken without delay to speed up the administration of the Military Service Act. It is understood that all the exemptions heretofore granted will be canceled and that there will be a thorough combing of the draftees already exempted. The temporary exemptions will be terminated almost immediately.

No decision was arrived at as to the calling out of class 3, which comprises married men under thirty-five. It is taken for granted, however, that the Military Service Act will be amended without delay and a statement to the house of commons by the prime minister is anticipated tomorrow.

INCITE STRIKES IN HOLLAND

Extreme Labor Party is Circulating a Revolutionary Manifesto.

Amsterdam, April 14.—The Telegraaf says that the extreme labor party is circulating a manifesto among the proletariat, inciting them to strike and demanding that the authorities seize all food stocks in private hands and also the distribution of the reserve.

The manifesto fixes the responsibility for the food disturbances on "unscrupulous persons who have bartered Holland's foodstuffs for three hundred million dollars, German and Austrian bills," and denounces the profiteers who are coming millions by the starvation of Dutch children."

White May Leave Government

To Head Bank of Commerce

By Staff Reporter. Ottawa, April 14.—Gossip continues to busy itself with the continued absence of Sir Thomas White. The general impression here seems to be that he will return next month and resume his duties as minister of finance, but there is an unconfirmed rumor to the effect that he may leave the government at an early date to become president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Toronto

The body of James Lendrum is found floating in the Humber.

P. Burns of Calgary presents a battle-plate to the Royal Air Force.

Five hundred soldiers leave Exhibition Camp for an eastern post.

Frigate and others form a bucket brigade to fight a fire on Kitchener avenue, Earls Court.

Enlistment in the Royal Air Force will hereafter be for four years or the duration of the war.

Gladys and Herbert Ellcock are burned to death at 124 Sheridan avenue Saturday afternoon.

The staff of Lieut.-Col. R. S. Wilson, O. C. the new battalion to include returned men, is named.

The house at 28 Kanora Crescent, Earls Court, occupied by David Crawford, is burned to the ground.

Changes have been made in the regulations governing passports to men in class 1 of the Military Service Act.

North Toronto ratepayers prepare an agreement for property owners to sign when ceding the 10-foot strip on Yonge street.

Deserters from the army who are in category A are, on apprehension, to be sent overseas with the first draft. Category B men will have to undergo military and serve any sentence imposed.

BATTLE IS MORE STATIONARY ALTHO AS INTENSE AS EVER

Critical Sector Is Held Firmly By British Troops

Lines Have Not Wavered in Face of Terrific Onslaughts by Superior Numbers.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 14.—This morning held the British holding firmly in the critical Bailleul-Merville sector after a night of the most intense fighting, during which numerous heavy enemy attacks were repulsed and the invaders were driven from Robecq by a counter stroke.

The Germans today were continuing to drive forward in masses against the defending positions, which block their way to Hazebrouck, with its railway lines, but at the latest reports the British lines had not wavered in the face of the terrific onslaughts by superior numbers.

While no one could predict the outcome of the fierce battle now raging, the British position this morning seemed more firm and settled than at any period since the Germans began their onslaught west of Arrmentieres.

RIPPED TO PIECES

Heavy Concentration of Germans About to Be Employed in an Assault, Caught in British Artillery Barrage.

With the British Army in France, April 14.—A heavy concentration of Germans about Neuve Berquin, who were about to be employed in an assault against a long-suffering British brigade, were caught in an artillery barrage and literally ripped to pieces. For two hours the British shells plowed thru the enemy ranks and veritable slaughter resulted.

The same sort of thing has been going on for days. Prisoners verify statements that the British harassing fire is frightful. For two nights before the Germans began their present drive west of Arrmentieres the British artillery worked havoc. Prisoners say that when the advance started they had to walk over bodies and the wreckage of munition and supply wagons.

Another instance occurred on the eleventh northeast of Estaires, where British riflemen killed so many of the enemy that the advancing troops were piling up bodies and using them as protection against the fire.

The first wave of the attacking troops thus far in the fighting almost invariably has been broken, and often the second wave has been smashed. This is expected by the enemy, who depends upon subsequent waves for success.

British airmen continue to do marvelous work in fighting the enemy at close quarters. Not only are they doing great execution in bombing roads and congested traffic, but they have been sweeping down into the mouths of machine guns and engaging infantry with their rapid fire.

Battles in the air are numerous, and thus far the British have maintained vast superiority in this method of warfare.

ENLISTMENT PERIOD TO BE FOUR YEARS

A battle plane costing \$15,000 has been presented by P. Burns of Calgary, Alta., to the royal air force thru the Canadian aviation fund, announces Col. William Hamilton Merritt, honorary secretary of that organization. The name of the battle plane will be "Calgary."

Brigadier-General Hoare is expected to arrive in Toronto on Thursday from Texas. This means that the headquarters of the royal air force will be re-established in Toronto district from that date.

A new order states that all officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Royal Flying Corps must enlist in the royal air force for four years' service or the duration of the war, whichever may be longer, or be discharged. Men who chose to be discharged will be drafted into the Canadian expeditionary force if eligible.

BIRMINGHAM BOMBED ACCORDING TO ENEMY

Berlin, via London, April 14.—The official communication on the recent air raid against England says: "On Friday night Frigate Captain Strasser, with one of our marine air-ship squadrons, attacked important storage, manufacturing and shipping places connected with war industries in central England. Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Hull and Grimsby were bombed."

"Despite the extraordinarily strong gunfire encountered and the pursuit by our fighters, all of our airships returned safely."

NO INFANTRY ACTION

Battle on French Front Diminishes to Reciprocal Bombardments.

Paris, April 14.—The war office announcement tonight says: "The day was marked only by reciprocal bombardments at various points along the front. There was no infantry action."

AMERICAN CASUALTIES

Washington, April 14.—The casualty list today contained 57 names.

Heavy Attacks Launched By Germans Against British Who Enemy Thinks Are Worn Out Are Thrown Back With Terrible Losses.

London, April 14.—Reuter's correspondent wires from British headquarters in France this evening: "A bitter east wind is raging in Flanders and visibility is very low. The situation is generally unchanged. The enemy continues to employ fresh troops, and we are likewise steadily increasing our forces. Consequently the battle is more stationary, although intense as ever."

Yesterday morning the Germans launched a heavy attack against a length of front they have been attacking continuously and unsuccessfully for the last two days, undoubtedly calculating that the British were worn out and that another smashing blow would finish us. But fresh reinforcements helping the defenders flung back the enemy with terrible losses.

Corpses Check Advance. The mishaps of the enemy attack make absolutely inevitable his heavy losses. His formula for shock tactics consists in pushing forward in succession dense waves at close intervals, and as the front line is levelled off the others press on by the sheer weight of the men behind. Frequently the advance has been checked by the barrier of piled up corpses.

Our rearguard fighting has been difficult and valiant beyond words. While the machine gunners poured a series of little posts have held bullets into the enemy until their ammunition has been exhausted, the main body has slowly fallen back upon prepared positions. Each backward step has been made perfectly methodically, and we have exacted the full price for what we have yielded. Never have troops fought with such superb courage and tenacity as our men are at the moment. They have got their backs to the wall indeed, and Gen. Haig's assurance of French support in great strength has vastly heartened the fighting qualities of the poilu. The French are indeed magnificent; their morale is conspicuously one of irrefragable confidence.

Fighting Desperately. The enemy is apparently endeavoring to gain command of the communications between Bailleul and the north. He is fighting desperately with a mechanical bravery and an iron discipline. It is also apparent that the British have learned to value the fighting qualities of the poilu. The French are indeed magnificent; their morale is conspicuously one of irrefragable confidence.

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