

TELLS OF GREAT DRIVE AGAINST BULGARIANS

Sir George Milne, Who Commands British Forces at Saloniki, Explains Hardships Encountered Before Enemy's Line Was Broken and Allies Rushed On to Victory.

London, Jan. 23.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuters (Limited).—General Sir George Milne, commander-in-chief of the British forces at Saloniki, in a despatch dated Dec. 1, 1918, gives the first official description of the great Allied victory against the Bulgarians last September, which contributed so much to the final smashing of the Central Powers and their allies. This despatch shows that the British played a very conspicuous and very important part in this battle and suffered heavy losses.

He reports that he received instructions to prepare for his share in the general offensive in July. He was advised that the British were to take the heights west and northwest of Lake Doiran, provided the initial Franco-Serbo attack from Sokol to Vernek was successful. This latter assault on Sept. 14 was a brilliant victory so that on the 18th the British attack was begun. The British strength at this time, owing to climatic disease and influenza, was half its normal, therefore the Allied commander-in-chief, General D'Esperey, reinforced General Milne with a French infantry regiment and a Hellenic division.

General Milne says of the front between Doiran Lake and the Vardar that it baffles description, with its steep hillsides, rocky ground, deep ravines crowned by the "17" Ridge and Grand Couronne overlooking the British lines and the whole country south to Saloniki. These positions were all held in great strength with numerous guns and machine guns.



A LIFE SAVER.
Ensign Violet Hodgson, who has been appointed territorial organizer of the Salvation Army life-saving guards, vice Ensign Mapp, recently married.

Led the Attack.
The sixty-sixth infantry brigade, General Milne reports, led the attack on the ridge with consummate self-sacrifice and gallantry. Here the enemy had established three strong lines of defence, combining with concrete machine gun emplacements from which they could sweep and enfilade the whole front. After severe fighting the 12th Cheshires, the 8th South Lancshires, the 8th Shropshires reached the third line, but at this point they came under a devastating machine gun fire and were compelled to fall back to their original position, though not before they had lost sixty-five per cent. of their strength, including two colonels, who fell at the head of their battalions. The Greek and Welsh troops had meanwhile, assaulted a network of hills between the "17" Ridge and the Grand Couronne, penetrating a mile. The enemy offered desperate resistance with machine gun fire from emplacements of blasted solid rock. Nevertheless, the slopes of the Grand Couronne were reached, but the lack of success in the "17" ridge attack made it impossible to hold the ground and the battalion gradually fell back to their former lines, the 7th South Wales Borderers being the last to leave with nineteen un wounded men and one officer left out of a battalion.

However the whole scheme of this British attack was, apart from the prospect of a local advance, to pin down the enemy reserves on this front in order to ensure success for the great Serbian attack by which the Allies were ultimately to turn the flank of the Bulgarians facing the British. So on September 19 the British attacked again, Greek troops operating with Scottish regiments. They reached their objectives at many points against great resistance, but on the left the Allies could not make progress against a heavy barrage. Nevertheless the sixty-fifth infantry brigade which had moved up rapidly from the influenza observation camp twice gallantly alone tried to capture "17" ridge, but was driven back by the overwhelming machine gun fire. The result was that the troops in the center had their flank exposed and the right was also threatened. There was nothing to be done but fall back.

This was done and the men fought stubbornly the whole way. The twelfth Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the eighth Loyal Scots Fusiliers and the eleventh Scottish Rifles, covered the regiment and suffered many severe casualties, including the loss of all the commanding officers killed or wounded.

General Milne says that he decided to consolidate and hold certain of the ground won. "17" ridge and the Grand Couronne had not been taken, but the enemy had been severely shaken. He had suffered heavy casualties, losing 1200 prisoners alone. What was more important, the whole of his reserves, which might otherwise have been employed effectively elsewhere, had been pinned down and lost so heavily that they had been rendered ineffective. The results of this stubbornly fought battle were to be seen in the next few days, the Franco-Serbian army being able to break right through the Bulgarian front, all the Allied armies then joining in the pursuit. The Derbyshire and Yorkshire were the first to enter Bulgaria. After the armistice the British began their advance to the Danube in order to co-operate with the Franco-Serbian army against the Austro-Hungarian armies, but on October 10, General Milne says that he was ordered to assume command of the Allies operations against Turkey in Europe and when the news of the armistice with Turkey was received two British and one French division were on the River Marit.



CANNOT ABDICATE.
Prince Wilhelm, the eldest son of the former Crown Prince of Germany, is thirteen years old and, legally, at this moment is King of Prussia. His age makes it impossible for him to abdicate.

ENGAGED TO MARRY.
The tricolor of France flies once more from the spire of the Strasbourg Cathedral.



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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1919

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of St. John's Greatest Mercantile Event. Thousands of people have procured their wearing apparel here during the past week. They realized the money-saving possibilities and took every advantage of them. Were you one of these fortunate persons? You haven't much time now to decide. Just remember, every article of merchandise in our store is marked at a substantial reduction, and every article carries with it the OAK HALL guarantee. Know these two things, then don't miss the last day of

OAK HALL'S 30th Anniversary Sale

Sale
Ends
Tomorrow
Evening
at
10 o'clock

IT TAKES MORE THAN "Marked-down" prices to make clothes values. You may be able to equal these sale prices of ours elsewhere—perhaps you can beat them.

THAT ISN'T THE POINT—It's what you get for your money that determines a real value, and right now—or any other time—you can get as much, or more, for your money here in clothes value than anywhere else. Our motto of "large volume at minimum profit" assures us of big turnover, while you reap the benefits in lower prices.

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COAT SWEATER, Military Style, in Brown, Slate, Khaki, Oxford. SPECIAL SALE PRICE \$3.98
ALL-WOOL COAT SWEATER in heavy Cordigan stitch, Shawl Collar, Colors are Brown, Maroon, Oxford, Grey. Originally \$9.50, SALE PRICE \$7.45
Large variety of Sweaters up to \$15 in many Weights, Shades and Styles, all Radically Reduced.

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Many other lines of Mufflers up to \$7.00 all at Special Sale Prices.

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STANFIELD and WATSON makes of fine ribbed combinations. Regular \$3.50. SALE PRICE \$2.59
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All lines of STANFIELD'S Underwear at reduced prices, including Green, Red, Blue and Black Labels.
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WOOLWEAR Shirts and Drawers. Regular \$4.00 SALE \$2.98
Every line of Underwear in stock at Reduced Prices.

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Cloth Coats, Plush Coats, Furs—1-3 Off Regular Prices

CLOTH COATS in a wealth of different styles including tailored styles, full belted, half belted, loose fitting—made from such fashionable fabrics as Bolivias, Velours, Chinchillas, Tweeds, in colors of Taupe, Burgundy, Grey, Black, Maduro. Here will be found Plush trimmed coats, plain coats and coats trimmed with Natural Furs. Originally \$18.50 \$24.00 \$29.50 \$40.00 \$60.00 SALE \$12.93 15.95 19.67 26.67 33.33
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