

GERMANS CLAIM MORE THAN 30,000 PRISONERS

CAPTURE OF PERONNE AND HAM CLAIMED BY BERLIN WAR OFFICE

Victory in Battle Which Has Been Raging Near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere Asserted by the Germans—Heaviest Losses on the Line from Bapaume to Bouchavesnes and Behind Somme Between Peronne and Ham, as Well as at Chauny.

Berlin, March 24—(Via London, British Admiralty per wireless press)—The Germans have captured Peronne and Ham and defeated British and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter-attack on Chauny, according to the war office statement.

The statement adds that more than 30,000 prisoners have been captured and 600 guns have been taken by the Germans.

Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and parts of Franco-American reserves are declared to have been beaten, with the heaviest losses on the line from Bapaume to Bouchavesnes and behind the Somme between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny.

Text of Statement.

The text of the communication follows:

Western theatre: The battle near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won.

The British third and fourth armies and portions of Franco-American reserves, who had been brought up, were beaten and on the line of the Bapaumes Bouchavesnes and behind the Somme, between Peronne and Ham, as well as Chauny, were repulsed with the heaviest of losses.

The army of General Von Below (Otto) took by storm Monchy Height and south thereof carried forward the attack in a westerly direction beyond Wancourt and Henin. It is now engaged in a fight northwest of Bapaume for the third enemy positions. Strong British counter-attacks were repulsed.

The army of General Von Derrmar-Witz, following upon the heels of the vanquished enemy, pressed forward in close pursuit Friday night as far as the third enemy position in the Equancourt, Nurbu, Templeux, La Fosse, Bernes Line.

Attack Renewed.

Early yesterday morning they re-

newed their attack against the enemy and defeated him, in spite of his desperate defense and continual counter-attacks. A junction with the left wing of the attack of General Von Below was effected.

Between Manancourt and Peronne the troops of Generals Von Kethen and Von Gotard have forced a crossing over the Tortille sector and on the Somme battlefield are fighting around Bouchavesnes. Peronne has fallen. Other divisions have pressed forward to the south thereof as far as the Somme.

As early as Friday evening the army of General Von Hutier, pressing closely forward, took by storm the third enemy position, broke through it and compelled the entire to retire.

Reach the Somme.

In ceaseless pursuit the corps of General Von Luttwitz and Von Oeltz have reached the Somme.

Ham fell after a desperate fight, into the hands of our victorious troops. English reserves, which were thrown against them in a desperate attack sustained sanguinary losses.

The corps of Generals Von Webern and Von Conte and the troops of General Von Geyl, after a fierce battle crossed the Crozat Canal.

French, English and American regiments, which had been brought up from the southwest for a counter-attack, were thrown back on Chauny in a southwesterly direction.

Emperor Stakes All.

London, March 23.—Today's German official announcement received here states that Emperor William is in command on the western front.

This announcement is regarded as further evidence that the Emperor has staked his all on the offensive, hoping to win and go down in history as the victor in this great and decisive world conflict.

Despatches from Amsterdam picture the Emperor at Spa, Belgium, which is being kept isolated on a radius of fifteen kilometres. The German Crown Prince, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, General Von Luden-

SOME CAPTURED GERMAN GUNS WERE BROUGHT FROM BALKANS

Huns Lost Heavily in Attempting to Cross Somme by Means of Four Bridges—All Roads in Rear of German Advance Blocked by Columns of Troops, Guns and Transport Vehicles.

London, Mar. 24—Reuter's correspondent at headquarters telegraphs: The correspondent reports that among the captured machine guns are some that were identified as having been used in the Balkans last year.

The Germans made attempts on Friday night to cross the Somme by means of four bridges, the attempts, however, were detected and frustrated with loss by the British artillery fire, his message states.

All the roads in the rear of the German advance, the despatch continues, are blocked by columns of troops, guns and transport vehicles, furnishing targets upon which the British artillery is making deadly play. Rough estimate of the casualties inflicted vary between thirty and fifty per cent. of all the enemy divisions, so far identified.

"I give these figures for what they are worth," the correspondent adds. "They probably are based mainly on statements made by prisoners."

dorf and other prominent Germans are also reported there with him.

Saturday's Statement.

Berlin, March 23, via London.—Between the Omignon stream and the Somme, after the capture of the first enemy positions the Germans made their way through Holnon Wood and fought across the heights of Savy and Roupy, penetrating into the third hostile positions.

South of the Somme the Germans broke through the hostile lines, and the report, and in an uninterrupted forward movement drove the enemy over the Crozat Canal toward the west.

Paris, Mar. 24—Today's bombardment seems to be over as this despatch is sent, no shell explosions have been heard for more than an hour from the Associated Press office. The subways and tramways began running again be-

GERMANS BOMBARD PARIS EIGHT HOURS WITH HEAVY GUN

Paris, Mar. 24—Today's bombardment seems to be over as this despatch is sent, no shell explosions have been heard for more than an hour from the Associated Press office. The subways and tramways began running again be-

fore noon today and in the afternoon the streets were in a still greater state of animation.

Paris, Mar. 24—A semi-official note issued today warns the public against pessimistic reports that the Germans have broken through the front and thus are able to bombard Paris from close by.

"The French front is intact, any assertion to the contrary is a lie," the note reads.

Paris, Mar. 24—It is believed in military circles that the Germans are using two long distance guns against Paris.

LONDON HEARS BIG GUNS

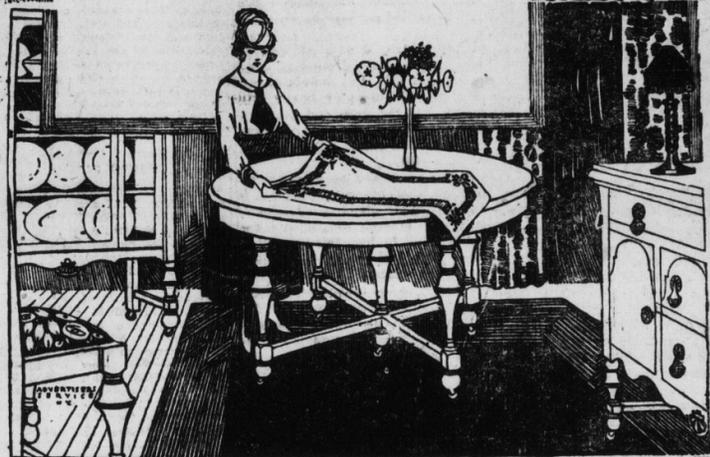
London, Mar. 24—The guns in France are distinctly heard in London. Particularly in high places there is a continuous throbbing. Many persons have gone to house tops to listen.

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