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MOSTLY FAIR

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ITALIAN ARMY WINS VICTORY; FRENCH SCORE BIG TRIUMPH; BRITISH TANKS ROUT ENEMY

SMASHING VICTORY BY THE FRENCH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MEUSE RIVER

General Petain's Men Capture Enemy Defences on Front of More Than Eleven Miles, Penetrating German Line at Divers Points to Depth of Mile and a Quarter.

MORE THAN 4,000 UNWOUNDED GERMAN PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN

French Hold on Left Bank of River the Avocourt Wood, Two Summits of Le-Mort-Homme, Corbeaux Wood and Cumieres, Also Several Important Places on Right.

BULLETIN—Paris, Aug. 20.—A smashing victory on the Verdun front is recorded in the official report issued by the war office tonight. The French have captured the enemy defences on both sides of the Meuse, over a front of more than eleven miles, penetrating the German line at divers points to a depth of a mile and a quarter. More than 4,000 unwounded German prisoners have been taken.

The text of the statement reads: "On the front north of Verdun our troops captured, on both sides of the Meuse, enemy defenses on a front of 18 kilometres and to a depth which exceeds 2 kilometres at certain points. On the left bank of the river we hold in particular the Avocourt Wood, the two summits of Le-Mort-Homme, Corbeaux Wood and Cumieres. On the right bank of the river we have occupied Talou Ridge, Champneuville, Hill 344, Mormont Farm and Hill 240 north of Louvemont.

"On the right our troops have advanced considerably in the Bois Des Fosses and the Bois De Chaume. "The number of unwounded prisoners taken is more than 4,000. "The Germans carried out violent counterattacks in the Avocourt Wood and against Le-Mort-Homme and Hill 84 but our fire everywhere broke down their efforts and inflicted

HON. ROBERT ROGERS RESIGNS HIS POSITION IN CABINET

Outlook for Union Government, Representing All Classes, Parties and Creeds Which Are Unit for Winning of War Much Brighter.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Aug. 20.—While union government is not yet consummated, the outlook for the formation of a cabinet composed of representatives of all classes, parties and creeds, which are a unit for the winning of the war, looks brighter than at any time since Sir Robert Borden first opened negotiations with Sir Wilfrid Laurier. There are many obstacles in the way, but the chief one has already been removed in the resignation of the Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works. It is no secret in Ottawa that he was opposed to union government and used his influence against it. In addition as long as he was a member of the cabinet Liberals raised objection to any coalition with the Conservatives. His resignation clears the air as far as union is concerned.

War Liberals Favorable. The war Liberals, who are here negotiating with the premier, are favorably disposed toward union and most of them tonight express the view that it will be consummated. There is a spirit of optimism on the subject among union advocates on both sides. The Liberals and Grain Growers here held a conference yesterday morning. Afterward Mr. T. A. Crear, 20 Westlock, manager of the Grain

BATTLE IN FULL SWING AT VERDUN

Berlin Admits French Occupy Talou Ridge, East of the Meuse.

HUNS WITHDRAW THEIR OUTPOSTS

Battle Before Verdun Extends From Avocourt to Cumieres Wood.

HEAVY FIRING NEAR LENS CITY

The Germans Claim to Have Brought Down Sixteen Entente Airplanes.

Berlin, Aug. 20.—Sixteen Entente Allied airplanes and four captive balloons, according to the official statement, were brought down yesterday by the Germans. The text of the German statement follows: "Western theatre: Army group of Crown Prince Rupprecht: On the battlefield in Flanders, after the failure of the English early yesterday south of Langemarck, the artillery duel was considerably less than on the preceding days. "In Artois the artillery activity was intense only to the north and west of Lens. English reconnoitering detachments were repeatedly repulsed.

Before Verdun. "Army group of the German Crown Prince: A battle before Verdun con-

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLOODY KEY—NO. 8.

Dr. Michael Clark and Detective Carvell Discover a Long White Hair Sticking to the Bloody Key.

ITALIANS MAY BE ON TRIEST DRIVE, SAY THE TEUTONS

London, Aug. 20.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says that according to reports received from Austria the battle now raging on the Isonzo front of the Austro-Italian theatre is characterized as the most violent ever fought there. The despatch adds that it is believed by the Austrians and Germans the Italians are making an attempt to break through to Triest. A colonial number of new guns have been brought into the fight, for which the Italians had been preparing for weeks. Yesterday Italian aviators dropped proclamations over the Austrian lines saying that the bombardment would be continued for many hours.

menced today with strong attacks on the River Meuse from Avocourt to Casieres Wood. "The artillery continued without interruption, and with the greatest intensity, throughout the whole of yesterday and last night. A strong drum fire preceded the infantry attack. "The French occupied, without fighting, Talou Ridge, east of the Meuse, which since March of this year had been given up as a line of defense, and been occupied only by outposts. These were withdrawn yesterday in accordance with our plans and without disturbance from the enemy. At all other places on the wide battle front fighting is in full swing."

PRINCE ALBERT, ALL FORCED TO LEAVE VESSEL

Second Son of King Suffering From Gastric Disorders—Physicians Consult.

London, Aug. 20.—Prince Albert, second son of the King, has been obliged to leave his ship owing to gastric trouble, according to an announcement in the court circular tonight. A consultation of physicians has been held, as a result of which it was decided that the Prince must submit to a course of treatment. This will prevent him from undertaking any duty abroad for several months. Prince Albert has suffered from gastric disorders for several years. He was operated on for appendicitis in 1914 and on several occasions has been obliged to go on sick leave.

Italians In Their Offensive On the Isonzo Front Have Captured 7,500 Prisoners

THE BRITISH TANKS WIN A VICTORY

Important German Positions North of St. Julien Are Captured.

MANY HUNS FLEE IN GREAT TERROR

Others Surrender Without Even Offering the Slightest Resistance.

FAMOUS TRIANGLE TAKEN BY BRITISH

Enemy Defenses Along Mile Front to Depth of 500 Yards Captured.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 20.—(By the Associated Press)—British tanks scored another triumph in the capture of important German positions yesterday morning in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Poel capelle road north of St. Julien. It was a tank show almost from start to finish, and the infantry in this case played the part of supernumeraries in support of the leading actors, while large numbers of the enemy troops added a final melodramatic touch by surrendering abjectly, or fleeing in terror, as the heavy heroes lumbered on to the stage and reached for their shooting irons. As recorded in the official communication the British captured German defenses along a mile front to a depth of 500 yards. Among the strongholds occupied were the famous triangle.

Cleared Whole Territory. The tanks cleared the whole territory desired and then trundled back home. They suffered no damage, and the casualties for the operation totaled fifteen. This has been the most striking incident of the latest fighting along this front.

There have been intense artillery bombardments and the air services on both sides have been unusually active. Last night the air was full of German and British planes which bombed their way into each other's territory amidst pincushions, but awesome flashes from breaking shrapnel and long white rays from searchlights. The French engineers have encountered considerable difficulties amid the marshes into which the French have advanced on their left, but work is proceeding with marvellous rapidity.

HON. ELIHU ROOT RAPS TRAITORS

New York, Aug. 20.—In an address at the Union League Club, where members of the Root mission were given an informal dinner, Hon. Elihu Root declared there are "still some Ameri-

King Victor Emmanuel's Men Force Passage of Isonzo River, Inflicting Heavy Losses on the Austrian Army and Take Many Prisoners and Machine Guns.

Masses of Infantry After Furious Artillery Fire Poured on Austrians Start General Advance Against Desperate Resistance—Enemy's First Line from Plava to Sea Destroyed.

Rome, Aug. 20.—The Italians in their offensive on the Isonzo front, begun yesterday, have crossed the Isonzo river and already have taken 7,500 prisoners. It was announced by the war department today. Guns and many machine guns have been captured by the Italians, and the Austrians have suffered serious losses. The infantry hostile battle continues vigorously. The statement follows: "A battle is proceeding on the Julian Alps front. Yesterday morning after a bombardment of twenty-four hours, during which our artillery shelled the enemy positions with ever-increasing intensity, masses of our infantry commenced the advance toward their objectives.

ITALIANS CROSS THE RIVER.

"To the north of Anzovo (7½ miles north of Gorizia) after having brilliantly overcome technical difficulties and the resistance of the enemy, numerous pontoons were thrown across the Isonzo and our troops passed over to the left bank of the river. "From Plava to the sea, after having crossed the first line of the enemy, which had been destroyed completely, our troops brought pressure to bear upon him. Resisting strongly and being supported by considerable artillery and a large number of machine guns the enemy offered desperate resistance."

Hibau and Cockcroft Farms, the sites of exceedingly strong concrete and steel machine gun redoubts which menaced the infantry advance. Stream of Shells. It was dawn when the tanks lined up and waited for the signal to "go over the top." The British artillery, rendering no less of cavalry to the tanks than to the infantry in the past, poured a preliminary stream of shells into the German lines, then dropped a barrage ahead of their iron monitors, which started forward, looking for all the world, like great dragons which had rolled out from one of Hans Andersen's conceptions into the gray morning light that shrouded this battlefield in the "Cockpit of Europe."

Behind them came the infantry, ready to do the cleaning up of the remaining enemy after the tanks had finished their part. But there was little for the infantry to do, except assemble and care for the prisoners as the tanks progressed. There was hard fighting at several positions, such as the three redoubts mentioned, but it was always brief. The tanks wheeled into position and turned a heavy fire on the fortifications, and the Germans were either killed or surrendered. The German casualties were heavy; great numbers of Germans were seen fleeing, terror-stricken, as the tanks appeared in the distance, and a considerable number threw down their arms and surrendered without resistance.

"East of the Meuse the enemy was either completely repulsed before our fighting positions or driven back in counter-attacks. The reckless bringing up of masses of infantry on a front of more than 20 kilometres against our strong fighting forces cost the French exceedingly heavy losses. "Elsewhere no fighting operations on a large scale are taking place either in the west or east."

There are men walking about in this city tonight who ought to be taken out and shot at sunrise. Under stand, it is only a question of time until they will meet their fate."

THE GERMAN VERSION OF BIG BATTLE

Berlin, Aug. 20, via London.—The German official communication issued this evening says: "The French attacks in the Verdun region were everywhere repulsed, except in the Avocourt Wood and at Le Mort Homme, and that the battle is now going in the favor of the Germans. The statement follows: "The battle before Verdun is going on in our favor. On the western bank of the Meuse the enemy only succeeded in penetrating our defensive zone at the Avocourt Wood and on Le Mort Homme. Elsewhere his repeated assaults were everywhere repulsed.

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