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## GERMAN DIVISIONS FAIL TO TAKE ARRAS

### MORE THAN 100,000 AMERICANS READY IN FRANCE

#### British Start An Offensive

#### THE ENEMY IS HELD EVERYWHERE

#### HINDENBURG'S ALL FOOL'S DINNER IN PARIS UNAVOIDABLY POSTPONED

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 1.—(By Associated Press)—The last twenty-four hours continued unfavourable to the aggressive Germans along the British portion of the new battle front, and was a strikingly good one for the defenders. This morning the British were holding their entire line with strength, and they smashed numerous heavy German attacks on various points. The most intense fighting continued south of the Somme in the zone where the French have been making such a gallant stand. The outstanding feature of the conflict on the northern end of the front is that the British have again killed a great number of the enemy, which despite the harsh sound is what will end the war. Today the British initiated a forward movement about Frouny Cope, east of Arras. They launched a heavy attack at three and pressed so vigorously that they reclaimed a stretch of territory 1600 yards long, and averaging about 200 yards in depth. This success had its disadvantages, but they were small compared with the fact that the British were able after the past ten days of grueling work to undertake an offensive action. South of the Somme where there has been so much hard fighting the British appear to have the situation well in hand, and the town hall of Moreuil, about which sanguinary struggles have been swaying, was at last reports still flying the British flag. One of the most costly attacks the enemy attempted was between Mortenourt and the Somme, where a heavy assault was made against the Australians shortly after midday. The attackers came forward en masse and the British threw themselves against them so fiercely that the Germans were hurled back, leaving 3000 dead. The British operation at Las-saigny Farm, south of Hebuterlie, between Albert and Arras yesterday afternoon which resulted in strengthening their defending line, was a brilliant success. The Germans were pushed back with heavy casualties and British troops returned with two hundred prisoners, forty machine guns, and a trench mortar. South of Arras the enemy made two attacks

yesterday. One was near Hamelin Court astride the Arras Epaume Railway, while the other was north of Boisieux St. Mare. Both of these efforts were smashed. Although particularly hard fighting occurred around Episieux, in this operation the Germans advanced in great numbers after an intense bombardment of the British lines for two hours. At three places the enemy succeeded in penetrating the defences and bitter hand to hand struggles ensued. Northeast of Arras the Germans made a small attack Saturday after a heavy bombardment and pushed forward over a tiny strip of ground, but the operation was so small as to be hardly worth concern. The result of the fighting on the British front south of the Somme during the past two days has been satisfactory. Heavy German attacks on both sides of the Luce River Friday forced the British to fall back somewhat Friday night the enemy pushed forward and penetrated a large wood northeast of Moreuil which created an uncomfortable situation for the defenders Saturday the British decided to attempt to restore the lines and cavalry was sent out for the purpose of clearing the wood and re-establishing the positions north of Moreuil. There was not a hitch in the programme, the cavalry swept through the forest like a winter snow storm and forced the enemy to fall back not only here but further to the north. North of the Luce the enemy yesterday morning attacked in force along the British front between Warfuzan and Marcel Cave. This assault was preceded by a vigorous artillery bombardment, the cavalry again came into play, and by ten o'clock the Germans were compelled to admit defeat and retreat with large casualties. A little later the enemy again put down a tremendous barrage between Warfuzan and the Somme, and after two hours of terrific gunfire advanced in a line over a front of 1200 yards against which hordes of Germans were being hung. It seems almost inconceivable that these defenders, brave unto death, could have been able to hold that long sector, but masses, they came against more cavalry and met a similar fate, the Brit-

ish line remaining intact. North of Aubercourt and south of Marcel Cave the British stormed and recaptured important high ground to which the Germans had clung tenaciously. It is now possible to tell of a spectacular feature of a brilliant British defence last week below the Somme. It is the story of a little army composed largely of assortments of troops who were hastily assembled. In this gallant force were included American railway engineers who as in the battle of Cambrai last November, dropped their tools and took up arms in defence of Allied colors. It was last Tuesday afternoon at a critical moment when it was absolutely necessary that more troops should be thrown into the British line to hold the onslaught of Germans. Reinforcements were on the way but could not arrive in time. There was no time to lose, and a certain General immediately organized a force collected from the various units nearby in which were the Americans. They followed the lead of their dashing brigadier out into the swirling battle front where they were held. The enemy advanced in force and hurled themselves time and time against the British line in this region, but they found no weak spot. This composite force stood so gallantly and as well as their comrades to the right and to the left they clung on for many hours until the regulars came up. This is a sample of the fighting spirit which Allied soldiers are showing in this time of stress. This incident is more spectacular but hardly finer in spirit than that of seven hundred British soldiers. These lads had been home in England and beloved personally in the death of former Chancellor Burwash, D. D., at his home here Saturday night. The late Dr. Burwash was in his usual health until Saturday afternoon, when he complained of feeling a little unwell. A physician was called in and after treatment the Doctor retired to his room; after getting up at eleven o'clock to take his medicine he returned to bed, and lying back he passed quietly away. The Doctor was born near St. Andrew's, Quebec, in 1839, and is therefore 79 years old.

#### WHEELS OF WAR-MILL TURN SLOWLY

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 1.—(By Associated Press)—The wheels of war-mill continue to turn slowly on the British front today, although there are many indications that intense speeding up may come at any time. South of the Scarpe the enemy this afternoon began a bombardment which might easily presage assault on that sector. It was written in books that such an attack will come, but up to the last minute there has been no infantry attack. Further south of the British right there was hard local fighting around Mezieres and Demin, which was a continuation of Friday's struggle, but the most important action seemed to be taking place against the French where it was reported the enemy was preparing for an attack. All along the rest of the front, comparative inactivity continued so far as infantry fighting was concerned. The main factor affecting operations in the question of time. In this as in other offensives delay gives relatively greater advantage to defense than to

the aggressors, because the defence have better communications. For this reason the enemy must press his attack quick. The crucial sector which in the opening days of battle lay in the vicinity of Albert, which the Germans hoped to use as a gateway to the western advance now appears to have dropped to a zone below Somme. In the first place, resistance along northern France, undoubtedly upset the schedules and plans of the German commander, who, finding their progress here too slow, turned attention to south sector where they continued their successes. What the enemy's ultimate object might be if he should succeed in driving a wedge between the armies is a matter of speculation, but it's not unreasonable to assume that he would proceed northwest through Amiens, then close, Germans probably will press their attack against Arras for they not only desire possession of this city with its railway facilities, but wish to broaden salient they have driven in the British line.

#### DUTCH OBJECT TO SEIZURE

THE HAGUE, April 1.—Seizure of Dutch merchantmen in American ports is characterized by the Dutch Government in a statement in an official Gazette as an act of violence which it will oppose with the energy of its conviction, and its wounded national feeling. The Government takes issue with the proclamation of

President Wilson, regarding decision of United States, saying it contains assertions which are contrary to facts. The statement says, the Dutch nation with painful surprise has taken notice of President Wilson's proclamation, and that the seizure of the neutral mercantile fleet is unjustifiable.

#### A FEATURE OF BRITISH DEFENCE

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 1, by A.P.—One of the most spectacular features of the British defence last week was when a little army composed of an odd assortment who had been hastily assembled, including American engineers, who as in the battle at Cambrai,

grew away their tools and bore arms successfully, had a vital stretch of front to hold and maintain against curious German onslaughts until reinforcements arrived. The enemy advanced in force, hurled themselves time after time against the British line in this region, but found no weak spot.

#### Chancellor Burwash Dead

TORONTO, April 1.—Canadian Methodism lost its most influential and beloved personality in the death of former Chancellor Burwash, D. D., at his home here Saturday night. The late Dr. Burwash was in his usual health until Saturday afternoon, when he complained of feeling a little unwell. A physician was called in and after treatment the Doctor retired to

#### Berlin Official

BERLIN, April 1.—(Official)—There have been local successful battles between Luce Brook and Avee. French counter attacks west and southwest of Mont failed with heavy losses.

## Eighty German Divisions Unmercifully Hammered

### Impossible To Compute The Enemy Losses In Past Ten Days--A Second Thrust Preparing-Important Check At Arras.

LONDON, Mar. 31.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—A special despatch from Reuter's correspondent at the British front says, "On this, the tenth day of the battle, we can regard the situation with more confidence than a week ago. During the last few days German progress on the front of the British armies has been almost trivial. Except for a determined attack having for its object the capture of Arras and turning our flank in that direction, the Germans have attempted no operations on a large scale, and in the vast majority of the minor encounters we have had much the better of the exchanges, this being conspicuously true of the area from Arras to Albert and about the Ancre, where the Germans repeatedly made vicious drives to capture local strategic positions. How great have been their

losses during the whole ten days it is impossible to compute. The Germans have now put into the crucible of the battle over eighty divisions of infantry, and all have been more or less unmercifully hammered. Within the last few days comparatively few German divisions have been thrust into the line, which probably means that the enemy is preparing a second great blow which may fall at any time with all the tremendous weight that was behind the first blow. That blow failed. Nowhere did the Germans make that gap which was the whole end of their endeavour, and today we stand unshaken across their path. Seven divisions were to take Arras but failed. This decisive check of the German advance is important, for it further delays the enemy's plan of campaign.

## King Visits the Front

### Send Inspiring Message to Troops

LONDON, April 1.—King George on returning to London from his visit to the battlefield sent a message to Field Marshal Haig, in which he said:

"For the moment our troops have been obliged by sheer weight of numbers to give some ground. The impression left on my mind is that no army could be in better spirit, braver and more confident than that which you have the honor to command." The King recalled how he had seen the units recently withdrawn from the front and the entraining of fresh troops eager to reinforce their comrades. He said he had listened with wonder as the officers and men had narrated incidents of the stubborn fighting. With these experiences, short but vital, I feel that the whole Empire joins me in expressing gratitude to your army for the skillful and unswerving manner in which this formidable attack has been and continues to be dealt with. Any one, King George concluded, privileged to share these experiences would feel with me pride in the British race in that unconquerable spirit which will, please God, bring us through our present trials. We at home must ensure that the man power is maintained adequately, and that our workers, men and women, will continue nobly to the demands and necessities of war.

#### ARMENIAN RACE IN PERIL OF EXTINCTION

BOSTON, Mar. 31.—The whole Armenian race is in peril of extinction through a threatened combination of hostile Turks and Tartars in the Caucasus, according to a cable received today by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

#### LINES STRENGTHENED

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS Mar. 30.—The British lines have been strengthened rapidly. In every quarter along the front there is a most heartening display of determination and optimism. In the vicinity of Albert the Germans today were reported to be digging themselves in along the line from Thierval to Les Boiselles.

#### Attacks Repulsed

LONDON, April 1.—The Germans made two attacks on British positions in the western outskirts of Albert last night, and in both cases were repulsed. South of the Somme the enemy persisted in his attempts to advance along the Luce and Avee valleys, but made little progress.

#### AMERICANS SINKING SUBMARINES

LONDON, April 1.—Three encounters in which American destroyers sank a German submarine is described in a series of accounts of successful submarine battles published today. The accounts follow: First, an American destroyer sighted an enemy submarine on the port bow and proceeded at full speed in this direction. The enemy submerged. American officers could see the enemy's wake which showed he was running underneath the surface from starboard to port. As the Germans passed under the stern of the American boat the latter dropped a depth charge. The wake

which had been plainly visible on the starboard never appeared on the port side of the destroyer. Instead a large quantity of oil came to the surface. Second, an American destroyer engaged in night convoy duty sighted an object a mile away by the light of the moon. Full speed was ordered but the submarine dived. While the American was still a few hundred yards distant two depth charges were dropped and oil came to the surface. This submarine was apparently lying in wait for another convoy which was approaching from an opposite direction.

#### ROUMANIA HELPS PAY WAR BILL

COPENHAGEN, April 1.—The Tag-Nesche Rundschau Berlin says that the agreement between Germany and Rumania regarding petroleum industry will secure the Germany utilization of Rumanian oil fields for the

next 99 years, and exclude all other countries. Germany has secured occupation which it is pointed out will guarantee this; thus Rumania will pay part of Germany's war cost, the value of the monopoly being estimated at millions of dollars.

#### ALLIES WORKING WITH RED GUARDS

MOSCOW, April 1.—Allied co-operation with Council workmen and soldiers' delegates in Russia in defence of Gols and Mourmansk Coast and railway is an established fact, according to despatches which announce that French and British officers are working with Bolshevik

troops as instructors, as well as supplying British marines and French soldiers. Allies are said to be prepared to supply food and material required by the Red Army forming to oppose White Guards, which are exerting their opinions in Mourmansk District with Germans' encouragement and help.

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