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BRITISH PUSH FORWARD TO GERMAN THIRD LINE IN FOUREAUX WOOD NORTHEAST OF LONGUEVEAL

Allies Throw 200,000 Men Against German Line on Somme Battle-Front---Testing Enemy's Strength Along the Line---Flooding of the Dneister Delays Operations on Large Section of the Russian Front.

ADMITS FOOD SHORTAGE IN GERMAN TOWNS

Present Potato Supply Too Small to Permit Raising Allowance to 2 lbs. a Week to Each Person.

Amsterdam, via London, July 21.—The Berliner Tageblatt says that at a recent conference at Darmstadt with regard to the food situation, Adolph T. Von Batocki, president of the German food regulation board, frankly admitted that there was a shortage of foodstuffs, especially in towns, which it was impossible to overcome, and that he did not believe the present supply of potatoes would permit of the raising of the maximum allowance from 1½ to 2 pounds per week per head, as had been proposed.

CIVILIANS MUST HELP IN HARVEST

Exemption Only for Those who Have Been Given Certificate by Physician.

The Hague, July 21, via London, July 22.—The commander of the 29th German Army Corps has obtained the mobilization of all civilians to aid in harvesting the crops. They will be paid for their work at the local rates of hire. Exemption from work will only be granted on doctor's certificate. Persons refusing to comply with the mobilization order are punishable with a maximum sentence of a year's imprisonment and a fine of 1,500 marks.

FORTY KILLED DURING A STORM IN MEXICO

Mexico City, July 21.—Forty persons, including a number of soldiers and women, were killed during a severe lightning and rain storm in the suburbs of Mexico City yesterday.

W. J. BLACK CHOSEN TO SUCCEED C. C. JAMES

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, July 21.—W. J. Black has been appointed Commissioner of Agriculture succeeding the late C. C. James. For ten years before coming to Ottawa he was president of the Manitoba Agricultural College.

NO BALL GAME LAST NIGHT.

The game last night in the St. Peter's League was not played owing to the wet weather. The boys are playing good ball now and on a fine night play the full nine innings. They do not charge any admission to the grounds but rely on the generosity of those who attend to contribute enough to furnish the balls and other necessities for the game.

GERMANS BRING MASSES OF MEN AND GUNS FROM VERDUN TO CHECK BRITISH ADVANCE

London, July 22.—Some idea of the huge forces now engaged in the battle of the Somme, in Northern France, is given in the official statement from Berlin tonight, in which it is stated that more than 200,000 French and British troops attacked the German lines north and south of the Somme Thursday on a front of twenty-seven miles. Today's news from the battle ground, which has been contested bitterly since July 1, shows no great change in the relative positions of the Franco-British and German forces.

The British have again pressed forward to the German third line in the Fouraux Wood, northeast of Longueval. This wood is an important strategic point, the capture of which would bring the forces of General Haig to the highest point on the ridge commanding the German positions in the less hilly country beyond, which is not so much broken up and not wooded, lending itself not too well to defence. This probably explains the desperate attempts of the Germans to hold the wood, where the heavy fighting continues.

The Associated Press correspondent at the front states the Germans are bringing masses of troops from Verdun and guns from other points in an endeavor to stem the Allied advance. Meantime, the indications are that the Allies are testing the strength of the German line at other points. The trench raid by Australian troops in the neighborhood of Armentieres attracts much interest in this connection.

The flooding of the Dneister river is delaying the operations on a large section of the Russian front, to the advantage of the Austro-Germans, but Russia was able to announce two successes today. General Von Linington, commanding the Austro-German forces south of Kovel, has been obliged to retire further in the face of strong attacks by the forces under General Sakharoff. The Russians also seized the crossings of the River Stry and compelled their opponents to retire from the salient of the Stry and Lipa rivers toward Berestechk, where a battle is now going on.

By this advance General Sakharoff gives greater protection to the operations of the Russian General Kaledines on the Volynian line, in the region of Brody. In the Caucasus the Russians have taken the town of Gumushaneh, between Trebizond and Erzerum, the objective of the Russian army in this section of the front.

German Success Was Brief. Bulletin—London, July 22.—The Germans, in an attack on the British on the northern edge of the Leipsic salient, succeeded Friday in occupying British front trenches, but later were driven out, according to the British official communication, issued at midnight. Elsewhere along the British front comparative calm prevailed.

The statement says: "Except for local encounters there has been a comparative lull in the main battle area today (Friday) and there has been no change in the situation since the last report. The enemy made a bombing attack on the north edge of our positions in the Leipsic salient and succeeded at one point in entering our front line trenches, but at once was driven out. Taking advantage of the fine weather the Royal Flying Corps yesterday continued their bombing operations against points of military importance with successful results. The hostile aircraft were inactive until evening when a good deal of fighting took place behind the German lines. One of our offensive patrols encountered eleven German machines, and as a result three German machines were shot down, one bursting into flames.

Two Fokkers Bagged. "Another encounter between four of our machines and six of the enemy's lasted 45 minutes. One Fokker was then shot down and another badly damaged. The remainder of them fled. "During our air combats a fifth German machine was forced to the ground. Our total loss during the day was one machine.

"It has now been established that the enemy's assaults on July 18 on the Delville Wood area over a front of 2,000 yards was made by at least 13 battalions, drawn from four different divisions. The enemy's losses were correspondingly great.

Berlin Tells of Successes and Reverse. Berlin, July 21, via London.—An attack by British forces against the Germans at Fromelles, north of La Bassee, on Wednesday resulted in the loss by the attackers of more than 2,000 men killed and nearly 500 made prisoner, according to a statement given out by the war office today. The statement admits that the German line along a front of about 3 kilometres (2 miles) south of Hardecourt was driven from its first trenches into its second trenches, 800 metres in the rear. Enemy forces, the statement says, penetrated into the German salient at the wood of Vermandovillers.

The statement reads: "An attack by the English in the region of Fromelles on Wednesday was executed, but we have established by two strong divisions. The brave Bavarian division, before whose front the attack took place, counted on the ground in front of them more than 2,000 enemy killed and brought in 481 prisoners, including ten officers and sixteen machine guns.

"On both sides of the Somme the enemy yesterday, as was expected, prepared to deliver a main blow, but it failed, after the strongest fire preparation on a front of about 3 kilometres (about 2 miles). Attacks were made from south of Pozières to west of Vermandovillers. More than seven divisions, with more than 200,000 men, participated in the attacks.

"The result for the enemy is that the first line of the German division along a front of about three kilometres south of Hardecourt was pressed back to its foremost trenches into the next trenches, lying 800 metres behind and enemy divisions penetrated into the salient of the little wood of Vermandovillers.

"On the entire remaining front the wild onsets broke to pieces against the death-defying loyalty of our troops with heavy losses for the enemy. Up to the present 17 officers and 1,200 men have been captured.

"On the remainder of the front there is nothing special to report. The artillery and mine throwing activity south of La Bassee Canal and northwest of Lens, as well as in the Arrounne, and on both sides of the Meuse, increased at intervals. North of Verdun, in the Aisne region, small French detachments advanced, after an explosion which was without result, were repulsed and the crater was occupied by us.

"In an air battle a hostile aeroplane was shot down and shattered south of Pozières, and another northeast of Bapaume fell into our hands.

"Eastern theatre: South of Riga the enemy made only a weak attack, which was nipped in the bud. Russian attempts to cross the Dvina on both sides of Friedlandt were prevented. North of Dvyeven, a small detachment reached the west bank.

"Northwest of Smorgon our advanced pickets gave way before superior hostile attacks.

"Army group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria. The situation is unchanged.

"Army group of General Von Linington. After Russian attacks between Werben and Koron had been brought to a standstill, the curve justing out toward Werben was withdrawn in the face of an expected envelopment of fire.

"Army group of General Von Bothmer: Apart from small advance guard encounters there is nothing to report.

Paris Report. Paris, July 21.—The communication issued by the war office this evening says: "There is nothing to add to the statement of this morning.

"A German aeroplane this morning threw several bombs on Belfort. The material damage was insignificant.

The Belgian communication: "On the sectors south of Nieuport and around Dismunde there have been reciprocal artillery actions of slight importance. The Belgian batteries have opened a destructive fire on the German works at Steenstraete. The fire of these batteries continues."

SIGNS THAT ENEMY FAST WEAKENING

Recent Fighting Gives Evidence that the Teutons' Reserves are Being Rapidly Depleted.

New York, July 21.—A New York Times cable from London, dated yesterday, says: "General Haig's communique stating that more ground has been gained in Delville Wood and Longueval are regarded as affording convincing proof that the British are establishing a decided supremacy over the enemy.

A German counter-attack was expected. If the Germans had failed to make one at this juncture, it would have been a clear proof that they were too weak or exhausted to take advantage of the opportunity given by the British occupation of new ground for the defence of which only hurried measures were possible.

The German counter-attack was defeated in great strength and met a certain amount of success. In the light of General Haig's later despatches military critics here judge that the German claims to have recaptured the whole of Longueval and Delville Wood were made at the moment of their greatest success. German reports of progress in the fighting at Verdun showed frequently it was the German method to single out the moment when the attack was at its height for issuing a report.

One of the best military critics here says: "If the British recover lost ground we shall have great reason to be satisfied, for it will show the enemy's strength is definitely on the wane and that the sanguine calculations about the depletion of his reserves which are being circulated in France have substantial foundation."

ADMIRALTY RELEASES THREE MORE STEAMERS

White Star Dominion Liners Requisitioned After War Broke Out Now Available for Merchant Service.

Montreal, July 21.—The British Admiralty has released three of the White Star Dominion Line steamers which were formerly in the Canadian trade, the Northland, Southland and Canada, and which have been engaged in the government service between Great Britain and the Mediterranean. News of the release of the three ships was received here today.

WALSH-WHITE BOTT IS CALLED OFF

Minneapolis, Minn., July 21.—Inability to agree upon a referee caused the cancellation this afternoon of the proposed ten round bout between Freddie Welsh, English lightweight champion, and Charley White of Chicago, which was to take place here tonight.

All Forced to Walk. About fifteen ladies and gentlemen were very much inconvenienced last night when they were forced to walk through the heavy rain storm to the North End. A prominent resident of the North End who is one to complain, states that there was not a going north from Market square after 11.45 o'clock, while another gentleman states the last car going north left the square at 11.35 o'clock. The street car patrons were unaware of any change in the schedule, if one was made.

COMPLETE VINDICATION FOR GOVERNMENT, GEN. HUGHES AND THE SHELL COMMITTEE

Every Charge Made Against Them by Kyte Shown to Have Been False, Meredith-Duff Report Declares—No Commission, Reward or Remuneration Promised or Paid to Anyone for Obtaining Contracts—Allison Gave Gen. Hughes to Understand He Was Actuated Solely by Friendship for Minister of Militia—Up to Kyte Now to Resign His Seat.

BELGIANS AGAIN FEEL MAILED FIST

Thousands of Non-combatants Driven Out of Lille and Scattered Homeless "as Punishment" for Demanding Relief Food.

Rotterdam, July 21, via London.—Food riots which broke out in Belgium and Northern France have been suppressed by the German military authorities, according to reports received here from reliable sources. The riots were especially severe at Liege, Verrier, Roubais, Renais, St. Nicholas, Lokern and Termonde. The shortage of food which resulted in the riots, according to the relief agencies, was due to the shortage of forage which is not likely to be corrected, as the German government definitely has refused to consent to the plan to use interned German ships to bring relief food, and because of the embargo which the German authorities have placed on the import into Belgium and Northern France of native Dutch food supplies, which especially meats and fats, have done much to supplement the supplies sent into the occupied regions by the commission for relief in Belgium.

The quelling of the riots in the populous centres has been followed by the compulsory evacuation from the cities by the German authorities of large sections of the industrial population. There have been scattered homeless through the agricultural regions, the reports say, as punishment and to minimize the risk of a recurrence of the troubles. The greatest forced evacuation took place from the city of Lille, from which 25,000 people, including women and children, were expelled.

BLACKLISTED FIRMS TO FIGHT BRITISH GOV'T

Organize in New York and Select Committee of Five to Draw up Plan of Action.

Washington, July 21.—Inquiry as to why certain business concerns in the United States have been placed on a blacklist under Great Britain's "trading with enemy act" was directed to the British government by the State Department today through both the British embassy here and Ambassador Page at London.

Will Fight British Government. New York, July 21.—Representatives of fifty of the eighty-two firms blacklisted by Great Britain under the trading with the enemy act met here today to form an organization to fight the action of the British government. The only statement made was that a committee of five would be designated to formulate a plan of action.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, July 21.—The report of the Royal Commissioners, Sir Wm. Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, and Mr. Justice Duff of the Supreme Court, upon the fuse charges made by William Kyte, M. P., in the House of Commons, and the investigation which took place subsequently, was made public today.

The report is a unanimous one, and is a complete vindication of the government, the old shell committee and General Sir Sam Hughes.

It places Mr. Kyte in an extraordinary position. He has failed to implement the charges he made against General Hughes, the shell committee and the government.

The report here is that he will resign his seat. As a parliamentarian his usefulness is gone and his position untenable. It will be remembered that the shell committee was the creature of Sir Sam Hughes. The object was to establish an independent body that would without his intervention act for the war office in procuring the production of shells in Canada, and in making on its behalf contracts with manufacturers to supply these shells. And so says the report, "the position of the committee was undoubtedly that of agents for the British government." The contention that the committee was directly responsible to the war office was repeatedly made by General Hughes and other members of the government, but was contested by members of the opposition. It has been conclusively shown that the attitude of the minister was correct. Both Mr. Kyte and Mr. Carvell, as well as other Liberals contended that this government was responsible for its actions.

Judges Meredith and Duff, the latter a well known Liberal, declare positively they were agents of the British government.

EVERY CHARGE AGAINST GEN. HUGHES AND SHELL COM. FALSE

Every charge and every contention made against General Hughes and the shell committee by Kyte and Carvell has been shown to be false. There was a direct charge made in the House of Commons that General Hughes had improperly influenced members of the shell committee, but the commissioners dismiss this as "not well founded."

Indeed they also declare that no such inference can be drawn from letters written by General Hughes suggesting that certain persons in his home town of Lindsay would be capable of manufacturing high explosive shells. "It was a most natural and in no way improper thing" for the minister to do, declare the commissioners.

Terrific Bombardment by Gen. Kuropatkin's Artillery wipes Out German Defences and Clears Road for Infantry Attacks—Town in Turkish-Armenia Falls to Czar's Armies.

New York, July 21.—A Rome despatch to the Journal says: "The forces of Gen. Kuropatkin, on the Dvina, in the northern section of the German line in Rux, have smashed through the German front with artillery fire lasting three days, according to despatches received here from Petrograd today. The Germans suffered what are described as 'colossal' losses.

Gen. Kuropatkin has been attacking the German defensive works with furious artillery fire for several days, and has succeeded in destroying the enemy's position to such an extent that the Russians are now ready for infantry attacks.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg is directing, in person, the German defence.

Forced to Withdraw, Vienna Admits. Vienna, July 21, via London.—Under the pressure of attacks by the Russians, the Austro-Hungarian forces in the region of the Stry and Lipa rivers, have been forced to withdraw to new positions in the region of Berestechk, says an official statement, issued by the war office today. The statement says: "In the sector at the mouth of the Lipa the enemy attacked, after artillery preparations which lasted several days. His advance by way of Werben was arrested. Nevertheless we withdrew our salient positions before a new threatening surrounding movement in the region of Berestechk."

Another Russian Victory. Petrograd, July 21, via London.—Russian troops, advancing towards the northern Galician border, have defeated the Austro-Hungarians in the region of the confluence of the Stry and Lipa rivers, and have captured more than 1,600 prisoners, says the official statement, issued today. The Austrians retired to the heights near the town of Berestechk. The official statement follows: "On many sectors of the Dvina front there was violent artillery fighting. "In the region of the Stry, above its confluence with the Lipa, we dealt another strong blow at the enemy, ejecting him from the village of Verben and from fortified works south of that village and, keeping on the heels of his bewildered rear, seized the crossings of the Stry. The enemy retired towards the heights near the town of Berestechk, and is beginning partially to surrender to a battalion already engaged in the region of Berestechk. Prisoners taken already number over 1,500, including many officers. "Our brave regimental commander, (Continued on page 2)