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NORTHERN PART OF HINDENBURG LINE TURNED KAISER GIVES ORDERS FOR A THORO INQUIRY CANADIANS CLEAR VIMY RIDGE; 11,000 PRISONERS

BRITISH DRAW CLOSER ABOUT GERMAN LINES

Great Push of Greatest Battle in History Goes Steadily On.

NEARING ST. QUENTIN

Eleven Thousand Prisoners and More Than Hundred Guns Taken.

By Ed. L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.

London, April 10.—Fighting their way over the blood-soaked slopes of Vimy Ridge to new advanced positions extending their lines further about Cambrai and Arras, while drawing in closer about Saint Quentin, Britain's armies today continued their great push of the greatest battle in history.

Up to the time Sir Douglas Haig filed his official report, announced that the war office tonight, 11,000 Germans had been taken prisoner.

They included 235 officers. In addition more than 100 guns fell into the hands of the British. And that some of the positions carried were of the utmost importance from a defensive standpoint for the Germans was indicated by Haig's statement that the guns taken included many of heavy calibre.

Numerous machine gun emplacements were stormed by the British, and 12 of these were captured, with 12 trench mortars.

The battle today was fought in a snowstorm. Despite the bad weather the British Tommies and Canadians slipped, swore and fought their way across stretches of ground churned and re-churned by exploding shells.

Win East of Arras. They reached the outskirts of Monchy-le-Preux, five miles east of Arras. This represented an advance of about two miles from Feuchy, the last town in this region reported captured.

Various of the enemy, and followed it up by clearing the wood of the same name.

"There was hard fighting on the northern end of Vimy Ridge," Gen. Haig laconically reported. "We gained further important positions, took a number of prisoners and captured a number of machine guns."

Here again the Canadians fought their way to victory over the slopes already soaked with the blood of 100,000 French, who sought to gain the ground in the past.

North of Louviers, the direction of Cambrai, we advanced our line," the official statement continued. "At various points counter-attacks were repulsed."

Aeroplane Join Fight. While the conflict was in progress on land, aeroplanes again joined in the fight and co-operated both with the infantry and artillery.

On Monday, Gen. Haig reported, aeroplanes co-operated with the infantry in the capture of positions which were being brought up. The air fighters turned their machine guns earthwards and poured a hail of death upon the enemy.

Aeroplanes also bombarded a large railway station and wrecked three trains. Three enemy aeroplanes were destroyed and four others were brought down. Only one British plane was reported missing.

BRITISH GO FORWARD

Lines Have Been Pushed as Far as Five Miles East of Arras.

London, April 10.—In the face of heavy snowstorms and strong resistance by the Germans the British have pushed their lines as far as Monchy-le-Preux, five miles east of Arras, and made further important gains on Vimy Ridge.

The official statement from British headquarters describing the operations now in progress on the Arras-Lens line, reports the capture up to this evening of 11,000 prisoners, including 235 officers, more than 100 guns, including heavy guns up to eight inches, 60 trench mortars and 12 machine guns. The text reads: "Our operations have been conducted energetically in spite of heavy snowstorms and generally unfavorable weather. We have reached the outskirts of Monchy-le-Preux, five miles east of Arras, and have cleared various and various woods.

Kaiser Orders Special Report

Defeat at Vimy Ridge Has Caused Greatest Consternation Throughout Germany.

Amsterdam, April 10.—The Kaiser has ordered a special report immediately on the defeat suffered by the Germans in the Arras battle, according to reports reaching here from Cologne.

The defeat has caused the greatest consternation, it is declared. Papers are printing little except the communique, which declares that if Germany is compelled to evacuate France and Belgium, the country will be laid waste.

afternoon on the northern end of Vimy Ridge, in which we gained further important positions and took a number of prisoners and machine guns.

"In the direction of Cambrai we advanced our line north of the Village of Louviers. Such counter-attacks as the enemy attempted at different points along our front met with no success.

"The number of prisoners taken since the opening of our attack yesterday morning now exceeds 11,000, including 235 officers. We also captured over 100 guns among them a number of heavy guns up to eight inches in calibre, and 60 trench mortars and 12 machine guns.

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"Bombing expeditions were also carried out, in which a number of hits were obtained upon a large railway station utilised by the enemy.

"As a result of the air fighting three German machines were destroyed and four others brought down. One of our machines is missing."

CAVALRY TAKE GUNS

Pair of Heavy Howitzers Captured in Fine Old-Style Charge.

London, April 10.—Describing the extraordinary volume of activity developed in the Arras battle, Reuters' correspondent at army headquarters in France says:

"The constant stream of troops advancing throughout the day all along the front betokens the weight the British are throwing into the offensive. In one village this afternoon I counted within half an hour seven detachments, each headed by a band, marching as they reviewed instead of to battle. The tanks have been in action at various points."

"An interesting incident was the capture of a pair of heavy howitzers, mounted on the bank of the River Scarpe, by a cavalry squadron. They charged the gunners in fine old style, cutting down those who resisted, and they put the guns effectively out of action until they could be brought in. On the whole, today has been devoted to consolidating the important gains of Monday, and clearing up the spots which were still resisting. Our casualties thus far have been extremely light. Our airmen are still baffled by the wintry weather."

RIDGE IS HELD FIRMLY

Berlin Again Admits the Strength of Attacks.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, April 10.—Hallowed by its baptism in past years of the great war in the blood of at least 150,000 French and British soldiers, Vimy Ridge, dominating France's richest coal fields, was firmly in British hands tonight. Thru more than a year its slopes have been reddened by the blood of French and Canadian soldiers striving to gain the heights. But Field Marshal Haig's offensive swept these same Canadian fighters over the top in a tremendous punch that carried so stunning a blow to the enemy that the British casualties were believed slight.

All of the rejoicing tonight over the success of the British offensive, no single advance was more lauded than this taking of Vimy. Not only has it been one of the most desperately fought for bits of terrain on the whole western front, but its position is such that it may force the German retreat from the great coal fields in the valley between Lens and Douai.

London's tremendous interest in the long-awaited offensive, for which the munition factories and the army machine has been turning out ammunition and men all winter long, was reflected in the sale of special editions of the London newspapers. There was an air of tension and of jubilation, as

PRISONERS CAGES CROWDED

Correspondents Estimate That at Least Fifteen Thousand Are Taken.

By William Philip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.

With the British Armies Afield, April 10.—The greatest offensive since the start of the war, the British claimed such a tremendous capture of German prisoners that British detention cages were crowded out of all capacity. Although the British official estimate early today was 11,000, newspaper correspondents granted permission to view the prisoners estimated the total would reach 15,000, including those taken today.

The spring offensive is being waged in anything but spring weather. This has been the coldest April in half a century. Last night a gale which swept stinging particles of snow almost in the faces of the British troops raged thru the inky darkness. The teeth of this blizzard the formations were forward singing and joking. Where the Canadians were swimming forward into action there was the sound of machine gunning their feet.

"There was no thickening in the fog tonight. British troops have now reached the last line of German defenses before the river Scarpe along the front south of the River Scarpe.

GERMAN DRIVE ON ITALY PREVENTED

Haig's Offensive is Credited With Upsetting Enemy's Plans of Invasion.

FOE SHIFTS SUPPLIES

Concentration of Heavy Guns and Other Preparations Prove Futile.

By John H. Hearley, United Press Staff Correspondent.

Rome, April 10.—Italy thinks Gen. Haig's mighty offensive has stopped German plans for a drive toward Italy's northern provinces. It was learned tonight that the Italian army staff has long known of a great concentration of big guns and of military supplies which have steadily been piling up in this northern front, and it was hinted that the suddenness of the British "push" had resulted in abandonment by the Germans of these plans, with a hurried transfer of Germany's had three possible roads for the drive on Italian territory. One lies thru the Carso, the second thru the Trentino and the third thru the Fane of St. Bernard. The last-named was the historic way of Hannibal and Napoleon. But it was to be reached only thru eastern France or Switzerland, and military authorities here have dismissed it from calculation.

They held the Germans would risk an attempted invasion by the Trentino rather than the Carso route. "Field Marshal von Hindenburg was said to have been impressed by the Austrian advance last spring and to have made a special study of the route in this direction.

Despatches from the front tonight detailed vast rejoicing among the soldiers in formal Easter celebrations, at which announcement was made of America's entry into the war. The troops cheered vociferously for America and President Wilson.

Von Krobatin Has Resigned As Austrian War Minister

Amsterdam, April 10, via London.—The Vienna evening papers announce that Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary has accepted the resignation of Gen. Ritter von Krobatin, Austro-Hungarian war minister.

TIME FOR FUR STORAGE.

The Dineen cold air storage is in a separate building from the Yonge street store, where the recent fire occurred. Furs sent for storage will receive the same careful attention as in former seasons. Dineen's, 149 Yonge street. Phone Main 9322.

"Canada Will Be Thrilled" Great Victory Just Won is Glorious Beginning of Renewed Offensive Undertaken by British Forces.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, April 10.—Premier Borden gave the Canadian Press tonight the following message:

"The great victory just won is a glorious beginning of the renewed offensive undertaken by the British forces. It is of especial interest to me, as four weeks ago I looked out on Vimy ridge and realized from what I saw, and more especially from what I was told, the strength of the position and the tremendous task which lay before Canadians in undertaking to carry it all.

"Canada will be thrilled with pride by this glorious achievement of our expeditionary force. With equal pride we have heard the tidings of splendid success which has attended the efforts of all the British forces. When I was in France, Sir Douglas Haig asked me to visit the battlefields in the Somme in order that I might realize what had been accomplished. After my visit I came back convinced that the men who had captured the positions which I then saw in our occupancy, could not be stayed in their next great advance."

LONDON MARVELS AT NUMBER OF PRISONERS FROM VIMY

Most of Them Are Bavarians, the Stubbornest Fighters on the German Side, and Canadians Captured Thousands.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, April 10.—Comparatively few Canadian wounded from Vimy have as yet reached here. Those who know the area of the latest success, or rather where the opening stages of the latest success have been staged are marveling at the number of prisoners secured. Nine thousand already accounted for, means nearly five times as many as were taken in the first six days of the Somme offensive last July. Moreover the opponents of the Canadians in Monday's equipment were Bavarians, the most stubborn fighters of all on the enemy side. "We never used to find the Bavarians hold up his hands and cry kamorade," declared a Canadian officer tonight. There seems little doubt that either our artillery fire knocked the enemy silly or a man or else his morale has already declined. Perhaps both circumstances have caused the Bavarians to change his outlook on warfare. Other Canadians are inclined to attribute the crushing character of the Bavarian collapse mainly to the artillery work. "Big guns were used to night's star-bursts," tried only by the fact of prisoners the victory is crushing. "Measured on the map it is also tremendous, for the Canadians captured Vimy ridge, the mainstay of the Hindenburg line. It is evident Hindenburg's retreat has not damaged Haig's plans. He has simply carried out his matured scheme on the way he has long before the German retreat began."

BORDEN HEARS OF VICTORY WITH INTEREST AND PRIDE

Canada's Pride in Her Forces is Greatly Intensified by New Glorious Achievement.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, April 10.—Premier Borden has sent the following message to General Byng:

"My colleagues and I send warmest congratulations on the splendid success achieved yesterday by the Canadians. With deepest interest and pride I read this morning's stirring story of their advance, and learn that they have captured and occupied strongly-fortified positions which I saw on my recent visit to France. I hope you will convey to the forces under your command the intense appreciation of the Canadian people, whose pride in the record of their forces will be greatly intensified by this new and glorious achievement."

King George sent the following message to Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig:

"The whole empire will rejoice at the news of yesterday's successful operations. Canada will be proud that the taking of the coveted Vimy ridge has fallen to the lot of her troops. I heartily congratulate you and all who have taken part in this splendid achievement."

Explosion Death List Likely to Reach 150

Chester, Pa., April 10.—In a signed statement, Samuel M. Vaulsain, president of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation, late tonight said:

"Regarding the terrible catastrophe which happened at Eddystone today we are unable to account for it in any way, other than the act of some maliciously-inclined person or persons."

Chester, Pa., April 10.—One hundred and twelve persons, most of them women and girls, are known to have lost their lives, and 121 were injured by a series of terrific explosions today in the shrapnel building of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation at Eddystone, one mile from this city. Many of the injured were horribly hurt, and it is feared the final death toll will reach 150, while others probably will be retained for life.

How any of the 300 or more employees in the building, in which was stored approximately 50,000 shells, escaped is almost beyond conception, as there was scarcely a fragment of the structure left intact. Fire added to the horror, and most of the bodies were so badly charred that identification was impossible.

In the absence of any official statement, many theories as to the cause of the disaster, one of the worst ever experienced in this section, were advanced. Rumors of plots and arrests

HINDENBURG LINE HAS BEEN TURNED

Large Forces of British and Canadian Troops Are Pressing Beyond That Barrier, Canadians Having Cleared Vimy Ridge of All Germans, After Flaying Enemy With Big Gun Fire.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

With the British Armies in France, via London, April 10.—The British sweep east of Arras today turned the northern pivot of the famous Hindenburg line, and large forces of British troops tonight were pressing far beyond the top of that German barrier, which was prepared after endless months of labor.

The manner in which the British have advanced over the scores of German trenches, which the Germans must have believed would protect them indefinitely, has been little short of miraculous. The Germans themselves have been amazed at the audacity of the invaders, and have surrendered with an air of complete mystification.

The success of the attack launched yesterday against some of the strongest sections of the German lines of the entire western front seems to prove the fact that the artillery has finally solved the problem of entrenched warfare. It has taken months and years of preparation, but when the guns were finally massed against the German front they hammered it into submission.

Entire Line is Attacked. It was this hammering which demoralized the German lines on the Somme during the winter and brought about the recent retirement to the Hindenburg line stretching from Arras southeastward to St. Quentin. Now, the top of this line has been crossed, and it is being attacked along the entire distance. The meaning of the aeroplanes' activity last week, when the British fliers deliberately set out to clear the air of Germans, has been revealed in the new attacks.

Today the intrepid airmen were covering the advance everywhere, keeping the troops advised of enemy movements and enabling the British artillery to shell every area where concentrations appeared to be taking place. The day was anything but ideal for flying. It was blustery from sunrise to sunset and furious snow squalls were in the air at half-hour intervals. During these the machines were completely submerged by the snow barrage.

Canadians Clear Entire Ridge. Tonight the Canadians triumphantly announced that the famed Vimy ridge had been cleared of all Germans. Vimy ridge has been a historic battle ground in this war. The country on either side is dotted with graveyards, in which lie tens of thousands of French and German soldiers, who gave up their lives in the fight either to take or to hold this imposing position. The British, too, have tasted the bitterness of the battles there, and the Canadians had been holding on to a slender position on the western slope all winter only by the display of most tenacious courage.

In connection with the new offensive it was determined that Vimy must fall. The ridge positions had been flayed by an incessant bombardment for ten days and nights, when yesterday at dawn the Canadians climbed out of their lowly trenches and began moving toward the top of it. They fought their way from the foot to the crest before mid-afternoon yesterday; today they swept down the farther slope, and now dominate the enemy remaining in the Douai Plains.

Vimy was one of the vaunted German field fortresses, and the British find it difficult to imagine any strategic reasons which would call for giving it up. More than 3000 Germans in the Vimy garrison, including 100 officers, fell into Canadian hands before sunset last night.

Germans Begged for Food. The Canadians did not for a moment underestimate the seriousness of the task before them in taking Vimy. They knew that the artillery had paved the way to success, but were frankly surprised when they saw what the guns had actually done. They found hundreds of Germans holding up their hands over the bodies of their fallen comrades and begging for something to eat. These men said they had been cut off for days from all supplies by the steadiness of the artillery fire. They could not retire and no relief supply columns from the rear ever reached the neighborhood of where the shells had been falling in continuous showers.

Some of the stronger redoubts, manned by machine gun detachments, in which were found men of the highest morale in the German army, resisted for several hours. But, closing around them during the night, the Canadians silenced all resistance.

Surrender Was Precipitate. The final bombardment had sent most of the German defenders into the deepest of their dugouts and they did not dare venture out until the British called upon them to surrender, which they did precipitately.

Among the officers captured on the ridge were seven lieutenant-colonels, and also several doctors, who surrendered with all their staffs. Some of the officers were inclined to be sulky, blaming their predicament on the failure of the supports to come up as promised. They were told that the British artillery "had attended to that." Others of the officers were deeply depressed. Hundreds of prisoners taken were found lying in the assembly tunnels, from which they had attempted to reach the front line, but could not emerge on account of the shell fire.

Italian Socialists Discuss America's War Declaration

Special Cable to The Toronto World. Rome, April 10.—The Socialist parliamentary party met secretly in Milan today to discuss the attitude it will adopt in view of America's declaration of a state of war with Germany. The Chilean statement expressed the hope of early peace.

Chile's Reiterates Neutrality And Hopes for Early Peace

San Francisco, Chile, April 10.—The Chilean Government tonight made public a note reiterating Chile's neutrality. The note was prompted by the action of the United States and Cuba in declaring a state of war with Germany. The Chilean statement expressed the hope of early peace.

Flames Light Smoky Fall

Great excitement followed the explosion. A heavy pall of smoke darkened the entire town, which has a population of about 5000. This was soon

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