

# THE WEEKLY ONTARIO

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# Enemy Weakened by Enormous Losses Powerful Reserves Aid British Forces

## BRITISH AND FRENCH HOLD NEW LINES PRACTICALLY INTACT AGAINST ENEMY'S ONSLAUGHTS

### British Repulse Heavy Night Attack South of Somme— Huns Make Short Advance at Bray—Enemy Unable to Make Any Impression on French Front—Only a Few French Divisions in the Fighting—Powerful Reserves Reinforce the British—Berlin States Long- Range Bombardment of Paris Has Not Halted— Odessa Said to be Recaptured From the Germans.

#### BRITISH REPULSE HEAVY ATTACK

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
LONDON, March 27.—Today's war office statement says that as a result of the enemy's attacks yesterday afternoon and evening astride the Somme the British troops on both banks were forced to retire a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray. A heavy attack early in the night against the new British line south of the Somme was repulsed after severe fighting. Local fighting took place north and northeast of Albert, but the main front is unbroken.

#### ENEMY WEAKENED BY HEAVY LOSSES

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
PARIS, March 27.—The French war office reports that last evening during the night the Germans weakened by their heavy losses were compelled to retard their efforts. The French are now holding the line running through Lechelle, St. Aulin and Beuvraignes, north of Lesigny. In front of the southern part of Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise.

#### POWERFUL BRITISH RESERVES ARRIVING

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
PARIS, March 27.—Sub-secretary of War Abrams declared today that so far only a few French divisions have been engaged, adding "the bulk of the French army is awaiting events while the most powerful British reserves are arriving."

#### LONG DISTANCE GUN CONTINUES TO WORK

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
BERLIN, March 27.—An official announcement from German headquarters says the long-range bombardment of Paris has not been halted but still continues.

#### ODESSA RECAPTURED FROM THE HUNS.

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
MOSCOW, March 27.—It is semi-officially announced that Odessa has been recaptured from the Germans by the Soviet and Ukrainian troops after a bloody battle in which a naval detachment participated.

## Turning Point Near ; Allied Reserves Ready

WASHINGTON, March 27.—An air of expectancy was apparent today among American and other military officials here, who are following most closely the developments of the battle in France. They appeared to feel that a turning point in the terrific struggle was close at hand. Press reports from the British front hinted at the same feeling there.

Attention centres here now on the French front, rather than on the progress made by the Germans against the British lines. As the battle proceeds, officers here are becoming certain that defenders are carrying out a definite plan, of which the British withdrawal is a part, but which will prove soon to be coupled with a powerful counter thrust. The most probable place for the launching of such a movement, it was thought, was from the flanking position the French held tenaciously today along the left bank of the Oise. Today's official British reports, while admitting further German advances in the capture of Roye, indicated a decided slowing

### Met Fate of Old Guard at Waterloo

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
LONDON, March 26.—Yesterday was the supreme day for the British gunners, says one correspondent. Attacking from north of Evillers to the point of British contact with the French, the Germans were held up nearly everywhere by the ceaseless intensity of the British artillery fire. Masses of my troops which, coming forward in waves, again and again attempted to reach their objectives, met with the same fate as the Old Guard at Waterloo. In only one sector, near Saignies, did they succeed in bending back the British front. It was to conform the front with this indentation that the British fell back during the night, straightening the line.

### Germany Employed Tanks in Big Drive, Says Berlin

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
BERLIN, March 25.—(via London).—German tanks, reinforced by captured British tanks, says a semi-official statement today, on Sunday's fighting in the west, took a leading part in breaking the "brave" enemy resistance. The German divisions fighting below St. Quentin stood the test brilliantly, the statement says, and their mobility was universally praised. All the tanks which took part in the fighting are said to have returned unscathed. It was mainly due to their intervention, the statement continues, that the tenacious resistance of the British, especially the machine gun nests, was broken quickly. Troops manning a concrete redoubt near Urvillers are reported to have been overpowered immediately by the tanks.

up of the direct progress of the drive against the British front. The official statements indicated that the Germans saw danger in the exposure of their left flank to the threat of the French line on the River Oise. Evacuation of Roye gave the French a river line to hold against the Germans on a front that paralleled the flow of ammunition and supply trains to the most advanced German forces in the region of Roye. Bitter assaults against this French line were made throughout the day without avail. Meanwhile the evacuation of Roye by the British served to extend still further the German supply lines, against which a French assault might be launched.

## New Attacks Launched Around Chaulnes

LONDON, March 27.—The battle continues on the whole front south of the Somme River. Field Marshal Haig reports from the war zone in France last night. The Germans have also launched new attacks around Chaulnes.

"North of the Somme local fighting has taken place at different points. Much movement of hostile troops and transport has been observed in the battle area and these have been engaged by our artillery and airplanes. South of the Somme the hostile attacks reported this morning have been pressed vigorously with fresh German divisions against Noyon and Roye. This afternoon new hostile attacks commenced in the neighborhood of Chaulnes and between Chaulnes and the Somme, to the north of it. The battle is continuing on the whole front south of the Somme.

"In the past six days of constant fighting our troops on all parts of the battle front have shown the utmost courage. In addition to those British divisions which have already been mentioned, exceptional gallantry was shown also by the following: The Eighth, Eighteenth, Thirty-first, Forty-first, Sixty-first, Sixty-third and Sixty-sixth divisions."

The war office tonight announced that the Germans took Roye at 10.30 o'clock this morning. The statement says:

"The enemy made no further attacks during the night of March 25-26 on our front north of the Somme. During the afternoon there have been local engagements on this part of the battle front, in which the enemy has been repulsed, but he has attempted no serious attack. The line north of the Somme now runs: Bray, Albert, Beaumont-Hamel, Puisieux, Arette, Boiry, Henin, Wancourt, just west of Monchy to the Scarpe, and then along our original front.

The Germans have been attacking heavily south of the Somme this morning and took Roye at 10.30 a.m. The line there appears to be from Mericourt on the Somme, through Rosieres, west of Roye and west of Noyon. Fresh German divisions have been identified in this area, including two guard and two Brandenburg divisions. On this part of the battlefield, the British, French and American troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder and French reinforcements are rapidly coming up. The enemy has been checked west of Roye and Noyon."

The London evening papers take consolation in the fact that the Germans thus far have failed to break the British lines or force a wedge between the British and French armies and in the news from France that the gaps have been filled with local reserves, while the strategic reserves remain intact for their own special purpose.

The Standard says: "After a five days of fighting the British line has gone back almost to the limits of the Somme battlefield. But though it is elastic, it is not brittle; it is bent, but not broken."

The Globe says: "The Germans have failed to thrust so deeply into the British line as to make a reunion of the fissure impossible and to defeat the separated masses in detail. And with every hour the German chances grow less."

## LATEST

### DECISIVE BATTLE ONLY BEGINNING

ZURICH, March 27.—The Munich Bavaria, Neueste Nachrichten of last Sunday, commenting on the offensive on the western battlefield, says: "The first violent blow in a vast and decisive battle has been struck against our bitter and most dangerous foe on French soil. England has suffered a defeat, the magnitude of which cannot be disregarded."

### BRITISH LOSSES HAVE BEEN REPLACED

LONDON, March 27.—It is authoritatively stated that all the British losses in men and material in the big fighting in progress have been already replaced, the enemy's losses are further declared to be fully three times as heavy as those of the British. Four thousands of wounded British officers and men arrived in London from the western front last night. All showed the utmost cheerfulness and they described the German shelling as resembling a storm of hail.

### EMPEROR WILLIAM PRaises THE CROWN PRINCE

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—Emperor William has sent a telegram to the German Crown Prince announcing that he has appointed him chief of the Guard Grenadier Regiment in recognition of "the fine and great success accomplished by the troops under his command."

### PETIT PARISENE DENIES REPORT

PARIS, March 27.—The Petit Parisien denies that the inhabitants of Compiègne between Paris and the battle front are being removed as reported by many persons. It says people are leaving the town voluntarily but no evacuation order has been issued.

### GEN. VON BLOTNITZ KILLED IN ACTION

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—A Berlin despatch says Gen. Von Blotnitz a German divisional commander has been killed in action.

### EMPEROR WILLIAM AND GEN. VON LUDENDORFF QUARREL

PARIS, March 27.—The Temps today quotes a prominent Swiss who has just returned to Zurich from a visit to Germany saying in an interview that just before the beginning of the present German offensive a violent quarrel occurred between the Emperor and Gen Von Ludendorff, the latter it is stated spoke so strongly and authoritatively that the Kaiser growing pale and rising from his chair demanded to know whether he or Ludendorff was Emperor. The German general responded that he was only a soldier, but he was convinced his plan for an offensive would force peace.

### AMERICAN TROOPS ENGAGED

AMSTERDAM, March 27.—The Berlin Warwaerts military correspondent writes his papers that American troops have taken part in counter attacks against the German front near La Fere, but declared that not only were the attacks beaten off but the attackers were thrown back on the Oise canal.

### British Tenacity Surprised Huns

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
LONDON, March 26.—The tenacity of the British resistance in the big encounter of the past four days, German prisoners say, exceeded anything the Germans deemed possible. They complain of great privations, an account of lack of supplies, and extreme weariness also is telling heavily. Owing to the dense masses of supporting troops, however, the enemy is able to replenish his forward line with fresh units.

The weather remains dry, thus favoring the enemy. British planes last night made veritable pandemonium of every centre of concentration of traffic behind the German front. Tens of thousands of rounds were fired pointblank into enemy formations, while airmen fulfilled effectively their role as eyes of the artillery.

### BARRIER OF ALLIED ARMIES BRRAKS EACH GERMAN EFFORT

WASHINGTON, March 27.—France's confidence that the great German offensive is wasting its strength against the allied line is expressed in an official despatch received here today from Paris. The message quotes at length from today's Petit Journal to show that the Germans, though suffering tremendous losses in massed advances, have failed to obtain their objectives, and that the present situation is satisfactory to the Allies. Following is the despatch: "The French press continues to view with calm confidence the developments of the gigantic battle which has been going on for five days. This confidence is based upon all the experiences of this war. Each time that the Germans have attempted a movement against the troops in the west, the effort, after a certain amount of success, always of a temporary character, has ended in being broken against the barrier of the allied armies."

"The great example before all minds, is that of the Marne, where Germany had every advantage on her side, thanks to her preparation, to the superiority of her man-power and her heavy artillery and her hidden fighting against the powerful Franco-British armies accustomed to war and well equipped; her effort will again be stopped. Such is the firm and calm conviction of French opinion, the expression of which is seen this morning in the press."

### ENEMY RESERVES ARE DRAWN UPON HEAVILY

LONDON, March 27.—Telegraphing late on Tuesday the correspondent of the Daily Mail at British headquarters in France says that nearly two-thirds of the entire strategic reserve of the German army has now been thrown into the line and vigorously continued attack. "The German reserves," he adds, "consisted of eight-five divisions, totalling 1,275,000 men, and of a total number now remaining not the short of 200 divisions, or possibly 250,000 men, which were put into the battle front. After the first day 25 of these divisions were put into the battle front. On the third day another 21 are known to have taken part. Since then they must have drawn upon the reserves for a few more divisions."

"It is therefore clear that we have been struggling with the whole available strength of the German army, and the marvel is that our soldiers have held out so obstinately and steadily against odds so heavily against them."

## Obituary

### ALFRED N. PREST

Alfred Newton Prest, a well-known resident of Belleville for the past nineteen years died this morning at the family residence, 45 Herchimer Street, after having been ailing for the past six months. He was born in Thurlow, a son of the late William Prest and followed the trade of carpentry. Latterly he had been employed as carpenter with the Grand Trunk here. He was a member of Oxford Lodge, Sons of England, and of Victoria Avenue Baptist Church. Mourning his loss are his widow, four daughters, Mrs. James McKenna, Syracuse, N. Y., Misses Ethel, Clara and Evelyn, at home and two sons, Myles of Belleville and Delbert of Syracuse, to whom the deepest sympathy of the public will be extended. Mr. Prest out his son Harold, who was killed in France in September last.

## Busy Trenton

Hearty congratulations to his Worship Mayor W. Ireland also his wife, Mrs. Ireland on the happy arrival of a dear little daughter.

Mr. I. R. Cunningham purposes auctioneering his livery and outfit a week from Friday, on April 5th among the listed goods to be auctioneered are several fine horses. Mr. Vassau will conduct the sale. Mr. Cunningham now runs a fleet mother's illness.

## Will Speed Up Recruiting

(Ontario 4 p.m. Special G. N. W. Press Service.)  
LONDON, March 26.—To fill the gaps caused by the German advance in France the authorities have decided to place the recruiting machinery in motion again throughout the country. In order to assist the Government the miters have placed the organization of their unions at the disposal of the recruiting officers.

"To provide for all contingencies," says the Daily Mail, "it has been decided to speed up the recruiting machinery, and the men already scheduled for calling up will be summoned to the colors more quickly than was intended. The government will take firm measures when needed." The Mail says the events in France have proved to be a great stimulus for voluntary recruiting for home service among discharged soldiers and men up to the age of fifty.

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POINTS A POLICE  
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