

HINDENBURG LINE BROKEN

Great Offensive Took Foe Entirely by Surprise

British Led by Gen. Byng, Ex-Canadian Commander

Greatest Victory of War Scored by Haig's Forces

Greatest Victory of War Scored on the Western Front

British This Morning Penetrated Hindenburg Line to Depth of Five Miles Along Thirty Two Mile Front, St. Quentin to the Scarpe-- Teutons Demoralized by Great Drive

By Courier Leased Wire

LONDON, Nov. 21--The Hindenburg line has been broken to a depth of four or five miles, the war office announces.

British troops stormed the first system of the Hindenburg line defenses on the whole front between St. Quentin and the Scarpe River.

The British infantry and tanks pressed on and captured the second system of defenses over a mile beyond

The attack was begun yesterday by the Third Army. There was no artillery preparation and the Germans were taken completely by surprise.

The second system of German defenses captured by the British is known as the Hindenburg support line. The British captured Benavis, Lameau wood, La Vacquerie, the defenses known as Welsh Ridge, and Ribecourt village. Their operations are continuing.

The British also fought their way through Couillet Wood. Lieut-General Sir Julian Byng is in command of the attacking army.

Several thousand prisoners have been taken. The whole German line west of the canal Du Nord to the Bapaume-Cambrai road has been captured.

The towns of Havrincourt, Marcoing, Graincourt and Anex and Neuf Wood have been captured by the British.

The drive covers a part of the field of last year's offensive on the Somme and the section of the Arras battle front south of Arras. The British centre in this thrust is nearly opposite Cambrai, the important German base and railway centre, from which the British line on the Bapaume-Cambrai road was about nine miles distant as it has stood for several months past. The main force of the push just launched is apparently at Cambrai along this road.

What is known as the Hindenburg line was established by the German command last spring when the famous "strategic retreat" on the Somme front was carried out. It was a supposedly impregnable barrier, which had been in careful preparation.

London, Nov. 21--A large number of tanks moved forward in advance of the infantry when the attack was opened and broke through successive belts of German wire defenses, which were of a great depth and strength.

The announcement follows "Yesterday morning the third army, under command of General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng, delivered a number of attacks between St. Quentin and the River Scarpe. These attacks were carried out without previous artillery preparation and in each case the enemy was completely surprised.

"Our troops have broken into the enemy's positions to a depth of between four and five miles on a wide front and have captured several thousand prisoners, with a number of guns. Our operations are continuing.

"At the hour of assault on the principal front of attack a large number of tanks moved forward in advance of the infantry and broke through successive belts of German wire which were of great depth and strength.

Careful Preparation. The British and French showed in the Arras battle last spring and in the French drive on the Aisne front that the line was by no means a bar to their progress and serious inroads were made upon it in various attacks on both these fronts. No definite break, however, sufficient to permit the penetration of a large force which could debouch for large field operations had ever been effective.

The British movement in its

early phases gives the appearance of being the most ambitious that has been undertaken by them on the western front since the creation of their new armies gave them the power to strike effective blows. The attack came almost without warning, the only preliminary symptoms being a series of somewhat elaborate trench raids. Even the rather extensive operations in this sector reported last night by the British war office which the German staff announced it had taken measures to meet, gave hardly a hint that a push in any such force or over such a wide extent of front was in prospect.

There has been little speculation over the possibility of a British attack in force on the western front this fall in any area other than that of Flanders, where the main British effort for several months past has been expended. Even here the latches of the season and the difficult nature of the ground at this time of year particularly seemed to give little basis for expectation of anything more than local strokes here and there.

It has been apparent, however, that German attention was largely centred on the Italian front, where the military move in force intended to crush Italy is now in full swing. Admittedly numbers of German troops have been largely drawn from the Russian front, where the collapse of the Russian military machine had made it unnecessary for the Germans to maintain much more than trench garrisons. It is considered possible, however, that the British secret service had knowledge of a weakening of the German front in the west by the withdrawal of highly trained experienced troops to give backbone to the push in northern Italy, an opportunity thus being afforded to catch the Germans unawares and hit them a crushing blow while their strategic reserves in France and Belgium war area was depleted. The element of surprise, the reports reveal was a large factor in the initial British success as contrary to the almost invariable rule in this war, there was no advance preparation by the British artillery, the troops going "over the top" and falling upon an enemy apparently without any explanation that he was about to be attacked.

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HUNS SEE U.S. AS POWERFUL ENEMY

Regret Having Disregarded America's Entry as Immaterial

By Courier Leased Wire

Amsterdam, Nov. 21.--Theodor Wolf, in The Berliner Tageblatt concludes a long article on France's reliance on America by saying:

"Inasmuch as France probably will be unable to tap fresh resources, Clemenceau too must pin his faith on America's aid. If hope on America did not exist, there not only would there have been long since outbreaks of moral crises in all the Entente countries but an unmistakable readiness in the direction of peace would prevail.

"It is now shown how foolish were the German arguments that America's entry into the war was immaterial and would not prolong the war."

BRITISH WERE HAMPERED BY LACK OF WATER

Fog Also Partially Responsible for Early Failure to Take Gaza

MURRAY'S STATEMENT

Enemy Casualties Were More Than Double Those of British

TROOPS FOUGHT WELL

Gen. Dobell Relieved of the Command Owing to Illness

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Nov. 21.--(via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).--The chief feature of the dispatch of General Murray, commander-in-chief in Egypt, in dealing with the operations in Palestine from March 1 to June 28, is his summing up of the results of the first battle of Gaza. He says:

"We took 958 Turco-German prisoners and two Austrian field guns, and caused the enemy eight thousand casualties. We had four thousand, a large proportion of which were slight. The failure to capture Gaza was due to the delay on March 26, owing to fog and the lack of water in the country around Gaza, which prevented the battle being a complete disaster to the enemy."

General Murray pays tribute to the utmost gallantry and endurance and the splendid fighting qualities of the troops.

He states that on April 20 his total casualties were seven thousand. On April 21 General Dobell, commanding the eastern force, emphasized the opinion he previously expressed and which he said was supported by all his subordinate officers, that in view of the great strength of the positions to which he was opposed, a renewal of the direct attack would

Continued on page four

THE MERCHANTS CORNER

There is only one logical objection to advertising and that is the one offered by Joe Doltite of the Cincinnati general store.

"Joe, why don't you advertise?" said the editor of the Cincinnati Scimitar.

"Because I'm agin' advertisin'," Joe answered.

"But why, Joe are you agin' it?" said the editor.

"It don't leave a man no time," said Joe. "I advertised wunst in '90 and the consequence was I didn't have time to go fishin'," by crimos, till after McKinley's second election in 1900."

NORTHCLIFFE ON THE DEFENSIVE

Daily Mail Replies to Sir Edward Carson's Counter-Criticisms

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Nov. 21.--In reply to Sir Edward Carson's attack on Lord Northcliffe, The Daily Mail today singles out Sir Edward's complaint concerning attacks on Admiral Jellicoe, the first sea lord, and says:

"The proper course is not to make a vague complaint about 'attacks' but to answer the specific criticism made. If Sir Edward Carson or any other minister is satisfied with the conduct of the battle of Jutland, let him make a reasoned reply to Admiral Henderson's criticism."

The Daily Mail last month printed an article by Admiral David Henderson, criticizing the direction of the British fleet in the Battle of Jutland.

CLEMENCEAU'S ONLY WAR AIM TO BE VICTOR

French Premier Defined His Attitude to Chamber of Deputies

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

By Courier Leased Wire

Paris, Nov. 21.--The minority of 65 in the vote of confidence given to the new Premier, M. Clemenceau, in the Chamber of Deputies last night was made up almost entirely of Socialists, although some of that party abstained from voting. One Socialist, Andre Lebey, voted for Premier Clemenceau.

Paris, Tuesday, Nov. 20.--The war aim of Premier Clemenceau is to be a victor, he told the Chamber of Deputies to-day.

"If Germany to-morrow expressed a wish to enter into the society of nations I would not agree," M. Clemenceau said, "for Germany's signature cannot be trusted.

"You ask what my war aims are. My aim is to be a victor." During interpellations after the Ministerial declaration, Deputy Pierre Foregot demanded the firm handling of the political scandals. He declared that Louis J. Malvy, former Minister of the Interior, either is a traitor or that Leon Dautet, Malvy's accuser, is a scoundrel. He demanded that the connection with the scandals of Joseph Calliaux, the former Premier, should be made clear. Premier Clemenceau made an approving gesture and M. Calliaux applauded, but the Premier in reply refused to enter into details. He assured the Chamber that justice would be dealt rapidly and relentlessly for crimes against the country.

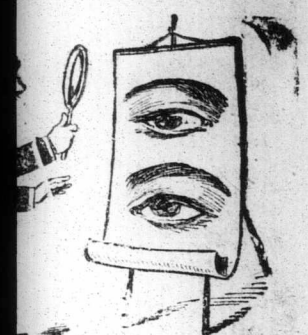
The Premier expressed sympathy with the Socialists and idealists, but declared that experiments were impossible in war time. He turned the laugh on some of his interrupters by saying that the only advantage of old age is that one becomes deaf.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Nov. 21.--Depressions are developing over the Great Lakes and off the middle Atlantic coast and the outlook is very unsettled from Ontario eastward. Forecasts: Winds increasing to gales, shifting to west and north west with rain, turning in some localities to snow on Thursday.

Advertisement for Zimmie, featuring an illustration of a man's face and text describing a professional opinion.

Days



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Wanted! Able Woodworkers, by at once, Superintendent's Office, Waterloo Works.

Phone 560 - Automatic 560 Gentlemen's Valet, CLEANING, PRESSING, IRONING AND REPAIRING, LADIES' WORK A SPECIALTY

TINSMITHS, Mach & Cleator, Late Howie and Feely, PHONE 2482, near of Temple Bldg.

Electric Work, the Returned Soldier do Electric work. All orders given prompt attention

V. BUTLER, Electrical Contractor, Colborne, Phone 1589

Broadbent, for the well-dressed Man or Woman, agent for Jaeger's pure wool Fabrics

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