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British Withdrawing From Ypres Sector

Retrograde Movement Pivoting on Wytschaete Region

Successful Counter Attack There—Unofficial Word Says Germans Have Advanced to St. Eloi and Have Footing on Mount Kemmel

With the Ypres salient in southwestern Belgium menaced by the continued advance of the Germans on the Lys battle-front, immediately to the south, the British have begun to withdraw from this advanced line.

Today's official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters announces that is at least a partial withdrawal from the Ypres sector.

The British forward positions east of Ypres have been given up and a new line to the west occupied. The withdrawal was carried out in perfect order without enemy interference.

Apparently the retrograde movement is pivoting on the Wytschaete sector, where London today reports a successful counter-attack carried out upon the Germans, who yesterday captured the town of Wytschaete, near the highest point of the Messines Ridge, and who presumably pushed out somewhat beyond the town.

They are unofficially reported, indeed, as having advanced to St. Eloi, a mile and a half north of Wytschaete, two miles west of Hellebeke, and about six miles directly south of Ypres.

BACK TO LINE OF YEAR AGO? St. Eloi is on the old battle line as it existed before the British began their offensive last year, taking Messines Ridge and later pushing on and gradually absorbing all of the Passchendaele Ridge, the continuation of the spur to the northeast.

This may be an indication that the British retirement is to the line of the spring of 1917, although such a withdrawal would include the abandonment of the entire Passchendaele position as well as the Messines Ridge area, from the greater part of which they have been driven in the present battle. It would leave the town of Ypres, however, still in British hands.

There seems no danger at present of a retirement on any such large scale as this on the northern end of the Franco-Belgian line as the result of the recent German successes. The line as a whole appears likely to hold as long as the railway communications support it. Apparently the security of these communications had been provided for by the massing of large forces in the north-western sector of the Lys battle front.

The German objective here, as has been frequently pointed out, is Waziersbrouck, the important railway junction about four miles beyond the point of the last advance westward, near Niepsu Wood, six miles southwest of Bailleul. A British counter-attack last night indicated the strength of the British line in this vital sector. It resulted in the driving of the Germans from the town of Meteren, a mile and a half west of Bailleul, which they had entered.

The Germans are still hammering the British line north of Bailleul, while to the southeast they are reported to be close to Mount Kemmel, the towering height which dominates the situation in this sector. The British now seem able to deal with them along the Bailleul-Wytschaete line, however, and the reports of repeated attacks with terrific losses to the enemy in the Bailleul sector is reported.

The present attack in Flanders does not seem to have diverted material British reserves from the Somme battle field as the Germans apparently expected, and such operations as are occurring to the southwest from Arras reveal the British in strength on this battle front where the main German effort must inevitably be exerted. The British last night counter-attacked opposite Boyelles and drove parties of Germans who had entered the British trenches yesterday completely restoring the line.

MORE SERIOUS. London, April 17.—According to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Paris, the Germans have advanced from Wytschaete as far as St. Eloi, and also have a grip on the southern slopes of Mount Kemmel.

RETIRE FROM YPRES POSITIONS. London, April 17.—The British positions before Ypres have been withdrawn to a new line.

The British have recaptured Meteren, on the northern battle front, by a counter-attack. South of Arras the Germans were driven out of British trenches into which they had forced their way. Early this morning the German artillery became more active south of the Somme.

The British made a successful counter-attack in the neighborhood of Wytschaete. Repeated German attacks north of Bailleul were repulsed, the Germans suffering heavy losses.

French Report. Paris, April 17.—Heavy artillery fighting occurred last night on the principal battle fronts, between the Somme and the Oise. The war office statement follows: "On the front between the Somme and the Oise there was great activity of the artillery on both sides, and patrol encounters occurred."

"The French carried out several raids, especially southwest of Butte Du Mesnil, in the region of Tahure and north of Flirey. We took a number of prisoners. On the right bank of the Meuse the German attack east of Samogneux was repulsed. Otherwise the night passed in quiet."

FIGHTING GRIM ON BLOODY CREST With the British Army in France, April 16.—(Associated Press)—The town of Wytschaete lying on the crest of a blood stained ridge at the northern end of the new battle field, and Spunbroeckmolen, which nestles on the top of an elevation just southwest, were today stormed and occupied by large German forces. Meanwhile fresh enemy troops were battering hard at the British lines west of Bailleul in an attempt to continue their success of last night and break through to Hazebrouck.

Grim fighting has been going on since morning, and well into the afternoon there has been no cessation in the intense struggle.

Italian Front. Rome, April 16.—The communication from headquarters today says: "There was more frequent and harassing firing in the Vallagarine. In the region of Adamello and in the Brenta Valley the activity of our patrols led to local engagements. The rest of the front was quiet."

LONDON PRESS ON THE GRAVITY OF SITUATION

Security of the Ypres Salient Imperilled, Says Mail

SHOULD WITHDRAW THERE?

Graphic Says Ypres and Passchendaele Should be Given up to Avoid Risk of Being Cut Off and Forced to Surrender—Times Says Serious Matter is Bringing of Fresh Divisions from Russia

London, April 17.—There is no inclination here to minimize the seriousness of the loss of Bailleul and the possibility that it may be led to the necessity of evacuating Ypres and Passchendaele.

Under the heading "they still advance," the Daily Mail says that up to this time in their advance the Germans have been in marshy ground. Yesterday they captured the first of the important ridges by storming Wytschaete, being aided by the fall of Bailleul, and thus "the security of the Ypres salient, the long bulwark of our left and touched with such immortal memories to us, is imperilled."

The Daily Graphic thinks it would be wise to withdraw the British troops from Ypres and Passchendaele "to avoid the risk of their being cut off and compelled to surrender." It continues: "That the situation is made more serious by the loss of Bailleul is obvious and it would be dishonest to pretend otherwise."

The paper adds, however, that so long as the Allied armies remain unbroken, Germany's purpose is not attained, while she is exhausting herself in order to force a decision.

Correspondents on the front say the Germans have used up 120 of their 200 divisions in the west and have been able to bring another two divisions from Russia.

"These unpleasant reverses must be faced steadily," says the Times. "Their significance may not be minimized nor exaggerated. Far more serious than the loss of ground is the revelation of the growing weight of the German pressure."

"We hear far too much of the enemy's losses, mistakes, difficulties and of their failure to reach appointed objectives on particular days and not half enough about the serious fact that they are still bringing fresh divisions from Russia."

The Times says the enemy will continue drawing out its reserves in Russia until "Allied statesmen stop dreaming vain dreams of a Russian offensive something practical to compel the enemy to cease depleting the Russian front."

DEATH OF MRS. A. MILNE. St. George, April 16.—Mrs. A. Milne died on Sunday after a long illness. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jess Wetmore, and widow of Alexander Milne, of Milne Coutts & Co. Mrs. Milne died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Mercereau. A son, Gideon, resides in Hartford, Conn., and another, more of the interior department, Ottawa, is a brother. The funeral will be held on Wednesday, services in St. Mark's church; interment in the Rural cemetery.

Phelix and Phaedra. WEATHER REPORT. Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturges, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis.—The northwest low area has moved but little since yesterday and is now centered in Dakota, while another from the southwest states is in Illinois and is approaching the Great Lakes. The weather is showery in western Ontario and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan; elsewhere it is fair.

Lakes and Georgian Bay.—Showery with westerly winds, and showers and local thunder storms today and on Thursday.

Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence.—Fair and cool; Thursday, showery. Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore.—Moderate winds, fair and cool today and on Thursday.

Mostly Fair and Cool. Maritime.—Moderate southwest to northwest winds, a few scattered showers, but mostly fair and cool today and Thursday.

BOLA PASHA IS PUT TO DEATH

Falls With Bullets of Firing Squad in Head

EXECUTION EARLY TODAY

Forest of Vincennes the Scene—Condemned Traitor to France Loses His Attitude of Indifference Maintained During His Trial

Paris, April 17.—Bolo Pasha has been executed at Vincennes. Reports of the execution made by him will be attached to the Humbert and Callaux cases. Standing before a firing squad in the forest of Vincennes early today, Paul Bolo Pasha, condemned traitor, lost entirely the attitude of indifference he had maintained subsequent to and during his trial. When the order to fire was given the rifles spoke and Bolo crumpled up with several bullets in his head.

Executed by several marks Bolo left the state prison forty-five minutes before his execution. After leaving the automobile in which he was brought to the scene, he walked to the execution of a prison chaplain. Then his eyes were bandaged and he went without a struggle to his place before the firing squad.

"I am delighted," Bolo exclaimed when awakened this morning by Commissary Julien of the third court martial, who told him that the hour of execution had arrived. These were the only words spoken by Bolo except for instructions to the chaplain to take from his body a silver lace handkerchief which he placed in his chest, and give it to his brother, Monsignor Bolo.

The condemned man went to his execution in a new suit of clothes, brought to the prison by his brother, and wearing white gloves.

When Bolo was taken to the office to go through the formality of his removal from prison for the execution he refused to sign the registers. The officials insisted, upon which Bolo said in an authoritative tone: "I who command here; no one has anything more to impose upon me, I think."

The chaplain, after the execution, found lying on the floor two green brocade handkerchiefs which had been pierced by the bullet. One was given to Bolo's brother and the other to his mother.

Before setting forth from the prison Bolo asked that he be permitted to partake of Communion. After the execution the chief of police in the December revolution have tendered their services, as has the minister of the interior.

AUSTRIA MORE BADLY OFF THAN EVER FOR FOOD. Washington, April 16.—The economic situation of Austria is more critical than at any time since the war began, according to an official despatch today from Vienna. The Vienna Neuwe Frel Presse announced that lamentable scenes threaten each day with tumultuous ones in the markets of Vienna, where meat is unobtainable.

BURIED TODAY. The funeral of Private McLeod McFarlane, who died in the Military Hospital in Pitt street yesterday afternoon, took place this afternoon from the Carmarthen street Methodist church. Services were conducted by Rev. H. Penna. Interment was made in the old Catholic cemetery.

The funeral of Archibald Capson took place this afternoon from his late residence, Wright street, to Holy Trinity church, where burial services were conducted by Very Rev. J. J. Walsh, V. G. Interment was made in the old Catholic cemetery.

The funeral of Miss Elizabeth Martin took place this afternoon from her late residence, Wright street, to Holy Trinity church, where burial services were conducted by Very Rev. J. J. Walsh, V. G. Interment was made in the old Catholic cemetery.

The funeral of Charles T. Pidgeon took place this afternoon from his late residence, City Line. Services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Sampson. Interment was made in Cedar Hill.

The funeral of Mrs. B. V. Weston took place this afternoon from her late residence, Ladlow street. Services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Sampson. Interment was made in Cedar Hill.

Spots of war have given rise to serious boundary disputes between Turkey and Bulgaria, which Germany is undertaking to smooth.

LIKELY FORM OF HOME RULE BILL

Amendment to Government of Ireland Act

EASY PASSAGE IN HOUSE

General Opinion Favors Measure That Could Apply to Scotland, Wales and England—Unionist War Committee in Private Session

London, April 17.—While Nationalist Ireland is making plans for resistance to the enforcement of conscription in their country, the rest of the United Kingdom is more interested in the home rule bill which George N. Barnes, Labor member of the war cabinet, without portfolio, announced in the House of Commons yesterday the government would introduce and pass, or fall in the attempt.

A committee consisting of such former anti-home rulers as Walter H. Long, J. Austen Chamberlain and A. W. Smeeth, solicitor-general for Ireland, with Mr. Barnes, which has been engaged in drafting the bill, held a second meeting yesterday and reported it had made rapid progress.

The home rule bill, it is understood, will take the form of a measure amending the government of Ireland act which was passed just before the outbreak of the war, but the operation of which was suspended for the period of the war.

General opinion favors a federal measure which could be made applicable to Scotland, Wales and England. Several motions suggesting the introduction of a federal system already have appeared in the House of Commons, while a large majority of the Unionists who have become converts to home rule also favor that system.

Never, on the surface at any rate, has Ireland had such a good chance of getting a form of self-government. What with the Liberals, Laborites, Nationalists and a large part of the Unionists supporting the bill it should have an easy passage in the House of Commons.

London, April 17.—A lengthy meeting of the Unionist war committee, attended by 127 members, was held in the House of Commons last night to consider the question of home rule in Ireland and the war. An official announcement said: "The discussion was a very grave one."

According to the Daily Telegraph, Edward Carson spoke in the interest of Ulster, while the other members urged that every effort should be made to secure a settlement of the home rule question, even at the sacrifice of long-cherished principles. No resolution, the paper says, was adopted, but the government must proceed cautiously with the home rule bill.

LONDON CANNOT IMAGINE DISASTER. Realized, Though, That Allied Tactics Must Soon Change. AN ARDUOUS TASK. British Are Carrying Out Duty in Face of Great Odds—Enemy Has Thrice Failed and Hope is He Will Be Checked Again.

London, April 17.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The gravity of the situation is admitted here in the newspapers but still no note of despondency is heard. The British army has been assigned to an arduous role—that of delaying the advance of a numerically superior enemy—and is holding with all tenacity every foot of ground, but disaster cannot be imagined, for the Allied line is still unbroken.

In this connection, General Haig's appeal to the troops is recalled, when he spoke of the French forces hurrying to the support and confidence that they will intervene at the proper time is felt. The present battle is a repetition of Verdun on a grander scale, with Bailleul Neuve Eglise, Wytschaete each representing the Beaumont Farm, all offered to the enemy at the price of his exhaustion.

It is pointed out, however, that the Allied tactics of delay cannot be pressed much longer, as the German success now threatens not Ypres alone, but the control of the coast.

The battle in the next few days will probably develop northward against Mount Kemmel, Noir and Rouge, of which the average height is 500 feet. Some satisfaction is deduced from the reflection that this is not the original German plan. The objective last week was Bailleul. Held there, they tried Hazebrouck, a more important centre than Bailleul. They were stopped there also, and they are now exerting their strength northward, but the previous two failures, also Amiens, justify the hope that they may be stopped again.

Correspondents testify to the fact that there is evidence that the enemy is still bringing in fresh divisions, enabling them to increase weight and pressure.

Correspondents testify to the magnificent spirit of the English and Scottish regiments, who are fighting so sturdily. Every man is convinced of ultimate victory. Some writers suggest that Admiral Beatty's sweep of the Cattageat is connected with the anticipation that the German fleet may participate in the offensive.

Assessment Act Taken Up Today

Municipalities Committee Hears Some Objections and Some Changes Are Recommended—The Question of the Theatre Tax—Act as Affecting Power Company Stands

(Special to Times.) Fredericton, N. B., April 17.—When the municipalities committee met this morning, Mr. Leblanc presiding, the St. John assessment bill was taken up section by section.

Mr. Potts remarked that if the city had secured accurate knowledge of the number of 40 by 100 lots in St. John it would be possible to raise the entire assessment without taxing incomes and without hardship to any one.

Dr. Campbell said that provision was made to give the assessors sufficient power to deal with real estate. Mr. Tilley said the bill was an excellent one and he wanted to congratulate the members of the commission on their achievement in producing a bill to which there was so little objection. He wished to express his opinion of the act in the highest terms.

Mr. Potts agreed that the bill was good and a vast improvement on the present act. Section five was amended to provide that stocks in trade shall be rated only on fifty instead of sixty per cent of their status.

The case of non-residents was discussed. Dr. Kierstead said the bill provided that a man living in one place and doing business in another should pay taxes on half his income in each place. The premier raised the question of a commercial traveler who was employed by a St. John house, but who lived outside and sold no goods in St. John.

Dr. Kierstead thought he was liable for full taxes. Dr. Baxter and other members could not see that he was liable at all. With regard to men in business for themselves the principle that they should pay full taxes on income at place where the income arises was agreed upon by the committee.

BURIAN TAKES PLACE OF CZERNIN

Prince Van Hohenlehe Also Loses Post—Displeasure Among The People

Amsterdam, April 17.—Baron Burian has been appointed Austro-Hungarian foreign minister in succession to Count Czernin, according to a Vienna despatch. Baron Stephen Burian von Rajcs was minister of foreign affairs from Sept. 15, 1914, to Dec. 28, 1916, when he was succeeded by Count Czernin. Burian also retains his portfolio as minister of finance.

London, April 17.—Prince Von Hohenlehe, chief of court to Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary, has been discharged, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. Count Alexander Esterhazy, brother-in-law of Count Reventlow, has been appointed his successor.

Basle, Switzerland, April 17.—The tone of the Austrian and German press indicates that a profound impression has been caused in those countries by the downfall of Count Czernin. The German Austria resent his retirement and began a vigorous campaign for the appointment of former Premier Tisza, Count views agree with theirs, as his successor.

The same elements which deplore the fall of Count Czernin are beginning to attack the German foreign minister, Von Kuehlmann, on the pretext that he did not protect Germany's economic interests sufficiently in the treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

P. E. I. DELEGATION TO OTTAWA FOR STANDARD RAILWAY GAUGE

Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 17.—Hand in hand with the movement to increase production in Prince Edward Island is the agitation now being made by our people to have the gauge of the P. E. Island Railway standardized. A delegation representing both parties in the provincial legislature and the board of trade of Charlottetown and Summerside has gone to Ottawa to urge upon the government the need of having this essential work done.

MAY BRING LABOR TROUBLES IN NORWAY

Christiana, April 17.—M. Trammell, leader of the Socialists of the left, was sentenced to sixty days imprisonment today for making provocative speeches. The imprisonment may lead to labor troubles throughout Norway.

GERMANS LANDED 40,000 MEN AT HELSINGFORS

London, April 17.—The Germans have landed 40,000 troops at Helsingfors, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. A German squadron anchored in the harbor of Helsingfors consists of two ships, including the battleships Posen and Westfalen each of 18,600 tons.

S. O. S.

While far away in foreign lands They fight for freedom's dawn; We strive at home with willing hands To help them "carry on." Our gallant heroes must be fed While they our burden bear; They face the foe where streams run red, And we must do our share. For love of country, king and right, For liberty we toll; God save the land for which we fight, As Soldiers of the Soil. We do not use the bayonet, Machine gun, sword or lance; Somewhere at home we do our bit, As they "somewhere in France." With hayrake, harrow, hoe and spade We'll toil with all our might, To face eternal Nature's aid, And that will win the fight. For love of country, king and right, For Liberty we toll; God save the land for which we fight, As Soldiers of the Soil. HOPE A. THOMSON, 819 Princess street.

STEFANSSON VERY ILL IN THE ARCTIC

Message Brings Word That Explorer is Very Low With Typhoid Fever. Fairbanks, Alaska, April 17.—A messenger arrived at Fort Yukon yesterday from the Arctic camp with word that Viljalundur Stefansson, the explorer, who is wintering at Hatched Island, is suffering from typhoid fever and is very low.

BRITISH NOBLEMAN FOUND DEAD WITH DERRINGER BY SIDE

He Was Known as Jack Greene in Arizona, Where he Had Worked as Time-keeper. Nogales, Ariz., April 16.—"Jack Greene" was found dead here last night, with a discharged derringer beside him. According to papers found among his effects he was the Right Hon. Lenth-Jackson B. Argyle, son of the Countess of Darneley of Cobham Hall, Cobham, Kent county, England, to whom he left a letter.

His papers showed he enlisted in 1914 in the fourth battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was discharged in March, 1917. He had three bayonet wounds and a bullet wound in his thighs.

He worked here as a timekeeper under the name of "Greene" and had said his health was shattered by his army service. The body was found before the home of a young woman to whom he is said to have paid attention.

TED LEWIS A WINNER; PORKY FLYNN BEATEN

Milwaukee, Wis., April 17.—Ted Lewis, champion welterweight boxer, last night outpointed Joe Eagan of Boston, fight critics agreed, in a ten round no-decision bout which went the limit.

Boston, April 17.—"Kid" Norfolk of Panama decisively defeated Dan "Porkey" Flynn of this city in a twelve round boxing bout here last night. Flynn was knocked down in the first and fifth. During the remainder of the battle Norfolk battered his opponent at will.

Cleveland, Ohio, April 16.—Benny Volgar, French bantamweight champion, was given the newspaper decision over Dick Lockport, N. Y., here last night. It was ten rounds. A decision was awarded to Joe Lynch, who outpointed Jack Wolfe. The men are bantamweights, and boxed ten rounds.

Government Quits. Lima, Peru, April 17.—The Peruvian cabinet has resigned.