

GREATEST BATTLE OF WAR ON

All of Captured Territory Consolidated Successfully by the Entente Troops

Present Offensive Likely to Result in Shattering of Teuton's West Line

No Let Up in Sweeping Offensive on West Front

Battle of Flanders, Now Launched in Earnest, Expected to Prove Decisive Struggle of the War; May Endure Months, But Will be Productive of Far Reaching Results

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, Aug. 1.—The battle of Flanders has begun and the indications are that it will be the biggest battle of the war. The offensive of the French and British allies had been expected for some weeks past, for although the French and British official communications gave no inkling of it, the German reports showed clearly a large scale operation was preparing.

The French public, however, did not know that French troops had been dispatched to share in the assault. Originally the front from the North Sea coast to Ypres had been held by the French in the Nieuport region, then by the Belgians as far as Elverdinghe and then by the British. The British troops later relieved the French and part of the Belgians along the coast.

It is thoroughly recognized here that the operation is only the beginning of a battle that will last weeks, perhaps months, but it is also hoped and believed that its effects will be in proportion to the extraordinary care and vast scale on which it has been prepared.

The first part of the program has been carried out with complete success and in a way which augurs well for its accomplishment as a whole. A glance at the map is sufficient to show the importance of the operations now under way. What has been effected fully justifies the German apprehensions and the French jubilation. French military observers say it is not too much to hope that the Germans may soon be cleared out of French and Belgian Flanders if things continue to go as well as they did yesterday.

The situation was rendered still more difficult by the presence within the saucer of a large number of waterways that must be crossed by means of bridges which might at any moment be destroyed by gunfire. This difficulty however, was overcome by a brilliant feat of the British engineers, who threw seventeen bridges across the waterways for the advancing troops, in the face of terrible gunfire. Similar and equally remarkable work was done by the French engineers who were forced to bridge the Yser for the attack. The Germans little feared appar-

ently that the battle would be in the direction of their right wing. It was early in June that rumors of the impending attack began to find their way to German ears and were voiced in Berlin. Gradually the rumors assumed certainty and the Germans began feverishly to strengthen their lines, pouring large numbers of fresh forces into Flanders and bringing up all available guns. The surrounding country was evacuated of civilians and stripped for the conflict.

The Germans knew they faced an offensive. They were unable with all their cunning to gather more than a fragmentary idea of the story of these preparations, which is in itself a marvellous one. Day after day the building of new armies continued under cover of a unique concealment in plans.

FIGHT FOR CERNOWITZ NOW RAGING

Russian Resistance To Advance of Austro-Germans Is Increasing

By Courier Leased Wire.

Copenhagen, Aug. 1.—A despatch to The Berlin Vossische Zeitung, says the Russian resistance for the defense of Cernowitz is increasing. Fresh troops are fighting with great energy and without faltering, in strenuously opposing the Austro-German advance on Kirlibaba. Fighting is most sanguinary, but the defenders are unable to prevent the Austro-Germans occupying positions favorable for further operations, including Kimpoling. The writer predicts the Russians will be soon forced to abandon Cernowitz.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Aug. 1.—Showers have occurred in many parts of the western provinces and heavy rains have been fairly general in Northern Ontario, while from southern Ontario eastward, the weather has been fair. Extreme heat has prevailed over the greater part of Ontario.

Moderate to fresh southwest winds, fair and very warm to-day, thunderstorms in some places during the night. Thursday, Moderate to fresh west and northwest winds, fair and cooler.

Major Morath in The Tages Zeitung, intimated the evening before the attack that General Haig despite weeks of cannonading, has been unable to effect adequate infantry preparation and was afraid to attack.

British front in France and Belgium, Aug. 1.—(By The Associated Press)—Heavy rain which continued in an unceasing downpour since last

night, had forced a comparative lull in the operations this morning at most points within the zone of the Entente allied offensive begun yesterday. Generally speaking, the situation early to-day was unchanged along the British front. Several German counter-attacks were repulsed in the course of the night and the heavy artillery duel continued, but the movement of big guns has been rendered most difficult by the rain.

The German artillery to-day actively shelled the trenches which were wreathed from them yesterday in No Man's Land about the salient, and the British guns continued to pour a steady stream of shrapnel and high explosives.

English to Fore London, Aug. 1.—According to reports from special correspondents, the great majority of British troops engaged in the latest assault, are English, although there are some Scotch, Welsh and Australians. It is said the Germans are employing a new scheme of defence which apparently depends principally upon organization for counter-attack.

They now diminish their garrisons and by the same amount increase the strength of their supports and reserves who hold rear lines in force and who are organized for immediate attack.

As an instance of the terrible pounding by the British artillery, it is said to be known that the crew of one German battery had to be replaced nine times and the guns thereof five times.

Copenhagen, Aug. 1.—The Ger-

GREEK SOIL EVACUATED BY ENTENTE

Allied Forces Withdraw From Old Greece, Thessaly and Epirus

GREECE TO GREEKS

Action Follows Decision Reached at Allied Conference in Paris

PREPARING FOR WAR

Greece To Cast Out Some 60,000 Additional Troops

By Courier Leased Wire

Athens, Monday, July 31.—Withdrawal of the allied forces from old Greece, Thessaly and Epirus in accordance with the decision of the Balkan conference at Paris, is being rapidly carried out. The last Franco-British troops left Piraeus to-day. The withdrawal from Corinth and other occupied points was previously executed. The Italians are similarly preparing to leave Janina and other sections of Greece, retaining only a small triangle near Avlona in Albania.

The unanimity of the allied action is a source of satisfaction, as the Italian aspiration desired a wider field, but yielded in the interest of the united action to withdraw all and leave Greece to the Greeks. Preparations are under way to call out the classes of 1916 and 1917, aggregating 60,000 men. The Greek government is highly gratified at the result as showing the allies are recognizing the territorial integrity of Greece.

ground in Flanders into a sea of mud, had forced a comparative lull in the operations this morning at most points within the zone of the Entente allied offensive begun yesterday. Generally speaking, the situation early to-day was unchanged along the British front. Several German counter-attacks were repulsed in the course of the night and the heavy artillery duel continued, but the movement of big guns has been rendered most difficult by the rain.

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Copenhagen, Aug. 1.—The Ger-

Torrential Rains Yesterday Did Not Prevent Consolidation of Allied Gains; Heavy Counter Attacks Launched in Vain by Teutons on French Lines

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, Aug. 1.—After the magnificent success of the French and British in Belgium yesterday, says the official statement issued today by the French war department, the Entente troops in a torrential rain storm consolidated the positions which they had captured.

Enemy Attacked After several days of artillery preparation, the Germans this morning attacked the positions on the left bank of the Meuse River, in Verdun region, which the French had captured from them on July 17. The French official statement says the Germans were only able to reach certain advance elements of the French first line where they were stopped.

Text of The Statement The text of the statement reads: "In Belgium after our magnificent success yesterday our troops under a torrential rain storm, consolidated the positions which they had conquered. The artillery bombardment on our front in Aisne region was continuous. East of Cerny a vigorous counter-attack permitted us to make progress at several points and to take prisoners. On the left bank of the Meuse in the region between Avocourt and Hill 304, the Germans after artillery preparation which lasted several days attacked this morning the positions which we had conquered from them on July 17. The enemy was only able to reach certain advance elements of our first line where he was stopped by our fire. There was nothing to report on the rest of the front.

London, Aug. 1.—German counter-attacks last night and this morning against the new British positions at La Basséeville and Ypres-Comines canal in Belgium were successfully repulsed, says the official statement issued to-day by the British war office. Another German counter-attack further north in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Roulers railway was crushed by the British artillery. Heavy rain has been falling since early yesterday afternoon, the statement adds, and the weather continues unfavorable for operations.

The text of the British announcement says: "South of the Ypres-Comines canal, British minor operations during the night resulted in an improvement of our new line. Hostile counter-attacks yesterday afternoon and evening against our new positions at La Basséeville and immediately north of the Ypres-Comines canal were successfully repulsed.

Further north in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Roulers railway another German counter-attack was crushed during the night by our artillery. The weather continues unfavorable for operations. Heavy rain has been falling since early yesterday afternoon. We made a successful raid last night east of Boesgrenler. Guynemer Again Paris, Aug. 1.—Captain George

Guynemer, one of France's leading aviators, has brought down his fifth German airplane. The French aviator has been sick in the hospital in the latter part of July, after scoring his forty-six, forty-seven and forty-eighth victims, but on July 28 he returned to duty half cured with the famous "stork squadrilla" and on the same day brought down one machine north of Ypres, Belgium, and another, the fiftieth, close to Souhulet forest.

London, Aug. 1.—Wet weather, which has prevailed over western Europe since Sunday, and which continues without intermission, prepared the British public for General Sir Douglas Haig's report to-day that the weather had hindered the British operations in Flanders. The downpour of rain has been one of the most severe and most persistent experienced in recent summers and which the Teutons considered invulnerable for operations.

The achievements of the Anglo-French forces, however, are considered of good omen for the future, the allies having proved that they are more than a match for the Germans and are able to take positions which the Teutons considered impregnable. By the advance made yesterday, which was all that had been planned for one day, the Entente Allies are in a better position for the next stroke.

Besides, the counter-attacks which the Germans have been compelled to undertake and all of which have been repulsed are proving very costly for the Germans, who, already, are hard put to it to supply the necessary drafts for the various fronts where they are fighting.

The defeat of the Germans also is expected to have a good influence on Russia, while the attack, when an improvement in the weather makes it possible to continue it, will tend to outflank the Lille district from the north and threaten the enemy's line of communications between Germany and the Belgian coast.

It is recalled by military observers that the Somme offensive forced Field Marshal von Hindenburg to retreat for a distance of from fifteen to twenty-five miles on a wide front and it is possible the new offensive is destined to achieve a greater result in the same way.

BACK FROM ARCTIC By Courier Leased Wire. Quebec, August 1.—Reports reaching here to-day from the north shore of the St. Lawrence, state that Capt. Bernier's vessel, returning from the Arctic, is in that region.

BANK CLEARINGS By Courier Leased Wire Montreal, Aug. 1.—Bank clearings for July were \$381,480,370; 1916, \$326,715,007; 1915, \$211,147,708.

NEGRO KILLED By Courier Leased Wire. Rochester, N.Y., August 1.—Henry H. Kingston, Jr., advertising agent of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad, shot and killed an unknown negro early this morning who tried to rob his home in East avenue, Brighton. Mr. Kingston was awakened by noises on the landing and between second and first floors he met a stranger. Mr. Kingston requested the intruder to halt, and when he refused opened fire upon him. A bullet was later found to have passed through the negro's left lung and to have resulted in his death instantly.

CHARGES BY MICHAELIS ARE DENIED

No Special Declaration By Russ Foreign Ministry To France

By Courier Leased Wire.

Petrograd, August 1.—Foreign Minister Terestchenko denies absolutely the declarations attributed to him by Dr. Michaelis, the German chancellor. He issued a statement saying: "The Russian foreign minister does up no protests or made any special declarations to the French Government beyond a general declaration by the Government respecting war aims, which was generally made known on May 18. This declaration so sympathetically received, will be thoroughly examined by the next inter-allied conference.

Geneva, July 30.—(Delayed) —The alleged plans of the Entente allies for conquest, as revealed in the statement of the Imperial German chancellor, Dr. Michaelis, were obtained from The Berne Tagwacht. They afford amusement to the Swiss people because The Tagwacht is an obscure Socialist and Germanophile journal, edited by Robert Grimm, who sometime ago achieved notoriety and was expelled from Russia for his connection with Germany's efforts to effect a separate peace with Russia.

The Swiss newspapers say that if Dr. Michaelis bases his information on such a feeble source as a virtually unknown journal, his cause already is lost in neutral countries, especially in Switzerland.

SWEEPING DRIVE BY RUSSO-ROUMANIANS ON EAST FRONT

Enemy Front Penetrated to Depth of 20 Kilometres, Together With Capture of 4500 Prisoners; Fresh Treachery in Russ Army

By Courier Leased Wire.

Petrograd, Aug. 1.—A telegram from Jassy says the Russo-Roumanian advances between the Casin and Putna valleys resulted in the enemy losing between July 24 and 28, ninety eight guns and about 4,500 prisoners. The enemy front of sixty kilometres was broken to a depth of between 17 and 20 kilometres.

Petrograd, July 31.—Premier and Minister of War Kerensky has returned from the front. A "battalion of death," consisting of 300 Royal sailors, forced four lines of enemy trenches on the western front, instead of two, as had been ordered. They then asked for reinforcements in order to consolidate the captured positions. Instead of reinforcing them, however, the soldiers fired on the sailors, who, between two fires, began to retire. Only fifteen of the men escaped unharmed.

The commander of the force died as the result of thirteen wounds, and a sub-lieutenant and two midshipmen shot themselves rather than retreat. The maximalist leaders at Helsingfors, Finland, have been arrested. Their official newspaper has been confiscated.