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THE SITUATION IS REPORTED DECIDEDLY IMPROVED

FIGHTING DIED DOWN DURING NIGHT; OUR TROOPS IN NEW POSITIONS; NOYEN GIVEN UP

German Losses Continue to Be Very Severe—More Than 70 Divisions Known to Have Been in Battle—Washington Gets Cheering News—Enemy's Best Trump Will Be Out-Trumped

Although still giving ground at points before the desperate German drive, the British and French armies engaged in the great battle in Northern France are preserving their front intact and apparently awaiting the opportune moment for the delivery of a counter-blow to dispel the German dream of world domination.

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 26—(By the Associated Press)—There is reason to believe important events will be recorded within the next few hours, which may lead to a betterment of the position of the armies which are stemming the German onslaught. The enemy is fighting desperately hard against time.

A heavy German attack yesterday about Erville was completely smashed by the British artillery fire.

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"The fighting died down during the night. Our troops established themselves in new positions east of Roye and Albert. North of the Somme continuance of the fighting is expected, but it has not yet developed.

"Attacks are reported to be developing this morning south of the Somme against our troops and those of the French in the neighborhood of Roye and Chaulnes.

"The enemy's losses continue to be severe. He has been obliged to reinforce his battle front from all parts of the western theatre.

"More than seventy hostile divisions are known to have been engaged in the battle."

"DECIDEDLY IMPROVED"

Washington, Mar. 26—Information received today by the British military attaché, Major-General McLachlan, is that the situation at the battle front decidedly improved during yesterday. The advices are based on the repulse of the Germans to the east bank of the Somme between Peronne and Morschain.

WILL OUT-TRUMP THE ENEMY.

French Front, in France, Monday, Mar. 25—(By the Associated Press)—Entire confidence reigns that the Germans' last trump in the world battle will be over trumped when the proper moment comes. The Allied military authorities were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check the irruption into the Allied positions.

SIGNS OF SLACKENING.

There is every sign in today's situation that the terrific attack, in which apparently somewhere in the neighborhood of one million Germans of all arms are engaged, is slackening. The resistance of the Allies seems firmer, and the arrival of French reserves, sent up to the southern flank, brought welcome support to the British who sustained the first powerful rush.

ALLIES NOT ANXIOUS.

The initial rush of the enemy seems to have been stopped. Military opinion generally is that this first phase of the great battle, in which even more troops were employed than in the battle of the Marne, gives no indication what the results will be. Nevertheless, developments are awaited by the Allies without anxiety.

HEAVY TOLL FOR EVERY FORT.

London, Mar. 26—Exacting the heaviest toll for every foot of ground the British line continues to withdraw slowly before the pressure of the German masses, Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters wires.

NOYON EVACUATED IN GOOD ORDER.

Paris, Mar. 26—The battle continues with the greatest violence and the Germans are making still greater efforts along the whole front between Noyon and Chaulnes. The war office so announces. Noyon was evacuated by the French during the night.

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Berlin, Mar. 25—(Monday)—via London—German tanks, reinforced by captured British tanks, says a semi-official statement today, in Sunday's fighting in the west "took a leading part in breaking the brave enemy resistance."

TURKS WANT CRIMEA

London, Mar. 26—Turkish newspapers, says a Central News despatch from Amsterdam, says, point out that on the right of self-determination the Crimea must be joined to Turkey, as the Baltic provinces of Russia have been joined to Germany.

CALL FOR PRAYER BY ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

London, Mar. 26—The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued to the nation a special appeal for prayer for victory during Holy Week. His appeal says: "Let this week end us hourly to our knees. To our living Lord, in time and in eternity, we commit with unflinching hope the brave men whom in love and trust we have sent forth."

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TANKS ATTACHED TO ST. QUENTIN STOOD THE TEST BRILLIANTLY.

London, Mar. 26—The test of the tanks attached to the St. Quentin stood the test brilliantly, the statement says,

GAVE HIS LIFE



Private E. W. Bean, reported died of wounds. Private Bean, enlisted with the 15th, two years ago and had been missing for the last eight months. His wife and four children are left at home, 27 Brussels street.

THEY CALL IT "MYSTERY GUN"

Frankly Conceded to Be One of Greatest War Surprises

SOME THEORIES ADVANCED

General O'Callaghan Does Not Agree With Them—Vienna Says the New Weapon is of Austrian Make and Secret is in Shell and Gasses

MORE THAN 20,000 COPIES OF THE TIMES NEEDED YESTERDAY TO MEET DEMAND

So keen was the interest in the war situation and so eager the demand for the Times-Star that all records of this paper for circulation were broken yesterday. No fewer than 20,000 copies were printed to meet the demand, the newspapers coming back again and clamoring for supplies that were quickly sold as soon as they appeared in the streets.

SOME TWENTY DEAD IN LAST NIGHT'S CASUALTY LIST

Ottawa, Mar. 25—Tonight's list of fifty-one casualties reports sixteen Canadian soldiers killed in action, two died of wounds, one died, two missing and believed to have been killed, seven missing, twenty-three wounded, seven gassed, one prisoner of war, and four ill. Maritime names follow:

INFANTRY.

Killed in Action—J. A. McDonald, Middle River, N. S.; A. D. Harlow, Sable River, N. S.

CAVALRY.

Killed in Action—Lieut. M. Sworder, address not stated.

FIRST SUPPLY THE NEEDS IN STATES

Washington, Mar. 26—Through arrangement with the Canadian government, the department of labor announced today that all recruiting in the United States for workers on Canadian farms will be done through United States agents.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, H. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

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W. H. Thorne & Co. Ltd. Suffer Heavily In Spectacular Fire

Loss In Noon-Day Blaze May Be \$50,000

SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS

Outbreak on Top Floor Where Ammunition Was Stored—Rattle of Shells Like Infantry in Battle Sends Crowd Scattering in Flight

Citizens had opportunity today to realize slightly what it must be like in the war. Soon after twelve o'clock a loud explosion was heard near the foot of King street, and was immediately followed by several lesser ones. People who were in the vicinity, fearing that something terrible had happened scattered in all directions. Some thought a bomb must have been dropped.

Following the loud explosion, bricks were seen to fly from the vicinity of the top story of the W. H. Thorne & Co. Ltd., building in Market Square, and in a few seconds tongues of flame broke out through shattered window panes. This was but the preliminary of a fusillade of shots and explosions and in a few minutes volumes of smoke and fire poured out in all directions. The rattle of shots and the flying cartridges drove to the streets a large number of people who had collected to shelter and for a time it looked foolishly to approach the burning building. An alarm had been sent in from box 6 and in a few minutes the fire apparatus appeared on the scene. Chief Blake took charge and in a remarkably short space of time had more than a dozen streams of water pouring into the burning building. Firemen braved the dangers and fought the flames from the roof of adjoining buildings despite the risk of being hit by shot from bursting cartridges, while others worked their way from the story until they were able to combat the flames from below.

As the steady crack of the shots resounded and fragments of bricks, pieces of empty shells and other material scattered in every direction, the men and British armies last year, the enemy gained proportionately less than the Allies did in a series of brilliant attacks beginning with Vimy Ridge and ending with the Malmaison Fort. All such operations result in the gain of ground exactly proportionate to the accumulation of men, material and means behind the front.

MORE ST. JOHN SOLDIERS HOME TOMORROW

There will be some more of our brave men home from the war tomorrow on the train reaching here at half past five in the afternoon. They will leave Halifax tomorrow morning. Those coming are:

Wm. Adair, Newcastle, N. B.; R. Acton, Jolicoeur, R. Bickerstaff, 288 Wentworth street, city; W. Burke, Randolph, St. John Gos.; O. Beckwith, 17 St. Paul street, city; H. Moffatt, 189 Guilford street, West, city; E. W. Mills, 62 Ludlow street, St. John West; E. J. McCarthy, 156 Sydney street, city; R. McKay, 274 Main street, city; W. McKee, 808 Baymarket Square, city; H. Ford, 5 Queen street, West, city; E. Huettig, 207 Rockland Road, city; F. Lawson, 97 Main street, city; E. W. O'Connor, Cedar street, city; M. Strom and W. Finkler, no address; W. Buck, Sackville, N. B.; Petticoat, N. B.; F. Casey, Campbells, N. B.; J. H. D. Moore-Mills, N. B.; F. Dufour, Edmundston, N. B.; R. Eldridge, Beaver Harbor, Char Co.; G. Ferguson, Metapedia, N. B.; W. Fleiter, Chatham, N. B.; J. M. Furlotte, Turgeon P. O., Gloc. Co.; A. J. Gault, 24 Summer street, Moncton, N. B.; W. Jennings, Annapolis, N. B.; A. Kay, McKee's Mills, N. B.; George Eitchen, Kingsley, N. B.; G. Miller, Fredericton, N. B.; F. Meredith, Oak Point Kings Co., N. B.; W. McNamara, Young's Cove Road, N. B.; W. Hoosenger, Archibald Station; K. Wilkinson, 149 Church street, Windsor, Ont.; J. Wilmot, Sullisbury, N. B.

The list was received by Charles Robinson, secretary N. B. Returned Soldiers' Commission.

ALL CONTENTION IN ENGLAND SILENCED; THE NATION IS BRACED TO BACK ARMY

Word From Front is That News Should Be Read With Entire Calm and Unshaken Confidence; High Water Level of German Advance Reached

ONTARIO AIRMAN IS DOUBLE ACE

Port Arthur, Ont., Mar. 26—Flight Lieut. Stanley Rosevear of Port Arthur has brought down his tenth German airplane, thus becoming a double ace. His latest victim fell inside the British lines. Australian troops saved him from death in the burning of his machine.

THREE HUNDRED MILE TRIP BY SLED AND CANOE AND SNOWSHOES

F. X. Bourret on Way to Ottawa for Aid to People of North Shore to Get Supplies

Quebec, Mar. 26—F. X. Bourret, a trading agent on the north shore of the Gulf, arrived here today after a 300 mile trip in dog sleds, in canoes and on snowshoes. He is coming to meet a local delegation to go to Ottawa to ask the government to ferry provisions to the population of the north shore.

"DIE WACHT AM RHEIN" BRINGS IN THE POLICE

More Than 50 People in Chicago Arrested for Celebrating German Offensive

Chicago, Mar. 26—More than fifty persons were arrested last night for celebrating the German offensive. Early in the evening police were attracted to one house by strains of "Die Wacht Am Rhein," and as a result of arrests elsewhere federal and civil authorities combined in a drive throughout German settlements where it was found that general celebration was being held.

FAMOUS SHOE-MAKER OF COLPENICK DEAD

Amsterdam, Mar. 26—William Voigt, a shoemaker, who caused the whole world to laugh at the expense of German militarism by his escapade at Copenhagen in 1906, is dead, according to an announcement made in Berlin.

GERMANS GIVE UP SHIP.

Stockholm, Mar. 26—It is reported that the Germans have released the Swedish steamer Princess Ingeborg. This steamer, while bound for a Swedish port after having unloaded a Belgian relief cargo, was captured by a German submarine off the Skaw on March 16 and taken to a German port. The Swedish government protested.

THREE STEAMERS AT HALIFAX SEIZED FOR ALLIES

Halifax, Mar. 26—Two Dutch steamers and one Russian were seized by the naval authorities here yesterday and will be before long engaged in the British merchant marine service. The Dutch steamers, which are about 2,000 tons net each, have been in Bedford Basin for some time, while the Russian steamer was towed into this port on Sunday with a propeller blade.

When the officers boarded the Dutch ships there was no protest. The Dutch ensign was not flying and the British flag will not be raised until the Dutch crews leave for Holland. On the Russian ship the Russian flag was lowered but the British flag was not raised.