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BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR

THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1917.

TWO CENTS

HAIG TAKES 6000 CAPTIVES IN ONE DAY

BULLETIN--British Headquarters in France, June 8, Via London 1:47 pm. (From a staff correspondent of A. P.) The number of prisoners reaching the collecting stations since the beginning yesterday of the new British drive in Belgium has now reached more than 6,000. Many more prisoners are coming in. No estimate of the number of guns captured is yet possible although it is known several German batteries were practically intact. The night passed quietly on the front of the new attack, all the conquered territory being held. Prisoners say that scores of German guns were destroyed during the British bombardment.

Onward Sweep of British Forces is Unchecked

BRITISH LOST BUT FEW MEN

Explosion of Mines Which Preceded Battle Shattered Foe Lines to Atoms; Earth Shook and Quivered, Hill 60 Went up in Fine Dust; Battle Front Presents a Scene Rivalled by no Inferno--More Gains Recorded Today Indicate That The Great Battle Has Only Just Begun

OSTEND AS HULL BASE CRIPPLED

Casualties in Latest Offensive Remarkably Light For Haig's Men

COULD NOT BE HALTED Total of Prisoners Arriving at Collecting Stations Over 6,000

By Courier Leased Wire. Bulletin, London, June 8, 3:15 p.m.--The British losses in yesterday's attack in Belgium were light, according to an official announcement issued here today. The statement says the battle became a gauntlet of the ability of the Germans to stop the British advance under conditions as favorable to them as an army can ever hope for, with every advantage of ground and preparation and with the knowledge that an attack was impending.

British headquarters in France, June 8, via London, 2:10 p.m.--Up to last night 5,650 prisoners had been counted. More came in to the collecting stations early today, bringing up the total to well over 6,000 with many more yet to come. Two comparatively large pockets of Germans, overlooked in the first rush forward, have been surrounded in Battle Wood, near the northern flank of the ten mile attacking front, and in Oxygen trench, down toward the southern flank of this line. This "mopping up" troops were expected to deal with these Germans during the day.

Of more than 100 officers taken, many are artillery men. All the latter said the British fire of the last seven days had destroyed scores of German guns. In some instances all four guns in German batteries were damaged, while in other cases three of the four guns were lost. The work of the British flying corps in directing the shooting, is beyond all praise. German officers said their guns were rendered helpless when airplanes came overhead and the British batteries began to fire under their observation and direction.

CASUALTIES By Courier Leased Wire. Ottawa, June 8.--The casualty list issued at noon contains 89 names, of whom 33 are reported as killed, 10 as having died of wounds and 11 as missing.

NORTHCLIFFE'S DUTIES. London, June 8.--The Chronicle, says that the description by the Northcliffe papers of Lord Northcliffe as a successor in the United States to Mr. Balfour is misleading. The paper asserts that the editor does not represent the Foreign Office and has no diplomatic function. It describes his business as chiefly concerned with the co-ordinating of supplies and says that his duties are similar to those fulfilled by Lord Rhonda in 1915 and 1916.

Weather Bulletin Toronto, June 8.--The depression which was over Wisconsin yesterday morning now covers the Georgian Bay district with greatly reduced energy. The weather is now showery from Ontario to the Maritime provinces and showers are reported locally in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Forecasts Moderate to fresh winds, chiefly southwest to northwest, a few showers but mostly fair and moderately warm, today and on Saturday.

By Courier Leased Wire

London, June 8.--All the special correspondents at the front, in their descriptions of the Messines battle, feature the tremendous explosion of mines which preceded the British advance. "The earth opened and the German line disappeared" is one terse description. Every writer likens the effect on the surrounding territory to an earthquake. One says the hill on which he stood shook like jelly. Another who says the explosive used was aminol, writes:

"We saw what might have been the doors thrown open in front of a number of colossal blast furnaces. They appeared in pairs, in threes and successive singles and with each blast the earth shook and shivered beneath our feet. 'It is worse than an earthquake,' said someone, who had known one of the worst earthquakes. Thunderclouds of smoke rose in solid form to immense heights from Hill 60, from Wytshaeete Wood, and other places and, while our eyes were full of the spectacle, a thousand guns opened fire. The air shook as the earth shook and where earth and air met incredible explosions seemed to rend the world until we appeared part of some cosmic revolution.

"We saw familiar landscapes already ploughed and harrowed by the war, vanish or assume grotesque shapes.

"Hill 60 went up in fine dust"

The correspondents agree in anticipating desperate counter-attacks. They say the Germans are massing vast forces and intimate that the battle has only begun.

Foe Counter Attacks Failed

Bulletin, British Headquarters in France, June 8.--The German losses in their counter-attacks were terrible. The full depth of the British attack was 5,000 yards.

Three counter-attacks by the Germans, which were not delivered in great force, were broken up last night.

French Official

Bulletin, Paris, June 8.--Heavy fighting continued throughout the night below St. Quentin, the war office announces. German infantry attacks between St. Quentin and La Fere were checked by the French fire.

The French positions were bombarded with especial violence before the infantry attacks. Severe encounters occurred at various other parts of the front. We took prisoners in raids in the region of Souain.

The announcement follows: "During the night the Germans bombarded our lines in the region southeast of St. Quentin. Our artillery replied effectually to the German batteries and held in check enemy troops which were preparing to leave trenches along the road between St. Quentin and La Fere.

"There was great activity during the night on the whole front north of Moulin de Laffaux, south of Filain and in the sector of Cerny the artillery fighting became very violent for a time. The enemy made attacks at a number of points. He was repelled by our fire.

U.S. STEAMERS SHELLED AND SUNK BY SUB

Survivors of Torpedoed French Ship Tell of Destruction of U-Boat

Paris, June 8.--The torpedoing of a big American steamer and the shelling and sinking by the submarine of the small boats in which the steamer's crew were escaping, is reported by the survivors of the French three-masted sailing ship Jeanne Cordonnier. The French ship was torpedoed in the English channel on May 31, and the crew reached Havre in open boats. They declared they witnessed the destruction of the American ship after their own vessel had been sunk.

BERTHELOT HONORED. Paris, June 8.--General Henri Berthelot, Chief of the French Military Mission to Roumania, has been raised to the dignity of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor. The honor is in recognition of his services in reorganizing the Roumanian army.

Flags, flags, all kinds, at Wick's, opposite Post Office.

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

With the British Armies in France June 7, via London, June 8.--The British armies struck today on a new front and won a victory which supplements the successes at Arras during the last two months. The Germans, though apparently unaware that the blow was coming, and seemingly prepared to meet it, were driven from their nearly three years' hold on Messines Ridge, opposite poor old Ypres, the last remnant of an important Belgian town, which with the help of the French and British in turn has held out against all the massed attacks the Germans could bring against it, including the first great surprise of poison gas as a means of supposed civilized warfare.

Ypres is Avenged.

Ypres, in a sense, was avenged today, for Messines Ridge has been the vantage point from which the Germans have poured torrents of shells into the stricken city. The British also wiped off an old score against the Germans, for they held the ridge in October, 1914, and with very thin forces, and practically no artillery, fought bloodily but vainly to hold it when the Prussian troops massed their modern and overpowering weapons of war against it.

The smoke of the giant mines exploded along the battlefield meant time rose in great, curling plumes toward the sky and was punctuated by red signals for help from the stricken Germans in the front and support lines. Never was the air filled with more frantic notices of danger. The entire horizon glowed with red balls of fire sent up by the

nervous Germans. More and more British airplanes began to make their appearance. One flew low over the lines, the flashes of the guns being reflected brilliantly on its highly glazed wings.

Under this appalling fire trudged forward on the ten-mile front general Plumer's army. At many places the men found German troops utterly dazed by the mine explosion and the ordeal of the artillery fire. Many of these troops had but recently come from Russia, where they had spent eighteen months, and knew nothing of what actual warfare was like on the western front. They had bolted at the first mine explosion, and had only been gathered together in groups by their non-commissioned officers when the British appeared out of the smoke and shells, and made them prisoners. Their surprise at what a modern battle is like was no greater, some of the prisoners said to the correspondent, than the fact that they were not immediately killed by their captors. They said they had been given to understand by their officers that the British always killed their prisoners. It was pitiful in some instances to see the manner in which these prisoners cringed to their captors.

As a matter of fact the British soldier, when the fighting is done is inclined almost too strongly to treat the German prisoners as pals. Some of the prisoners taken had only gone into the German lines the night before and had made their way forward under a galling fire and had lost heavily. But the troops already in the line were sailing for relief in such a manner that their appeals could not be denied. In view of the fact that the attack had been expected the German commanders were endeavoring to get their best units actually into the fighting front, but had under-estimated when the British would strike. The troops in a strange line were utterly bewildered when the attack fell, and became easy prey to the advancing British.

SIX HUNDRED Word has been received from Major Jordan of the 125th, that at the time of writing he was leaving for the front in charge of a draft of 600 men.

The Irish, New Zealanders, and Australians who had been rehearsed in every detail of the "show" knew just what to do from the moment the word to advance was given. The battle was far more visible during the first uncertain moments than later, when the sun gradually burned its way through the eastern bank of clouds. By that time the smoke of exploding shells and the vapors from the blinding barrage, which had been part of the artillery duty, obscured the more distant landscape to such an extent that the roaring guns could not be seen at all although the firing was almost at one's feet. The brilliantly leaping shrapnel shells, breaking far above ground, appeared through a thick mist only as brief and brilliant electric sparks, with the coming of day, however, the air began to fill with British fighting planes which had already done so much preparatory work toward the success of this newest assault upon the time-worn German positions. For a Continued on page eight.

CHURCHILL'S APPOINTMENT NOT CERTAIN

Premature Announcement That Winston Would Head Air Board

London, June 8.--The announcement of the appointment of Col. Winston Spencer Churchill, as Chairman of the British air board, now appears to have been premature, it is not incorrect. The announcement was made through the semi-official press association, allegedly on official authority, but it is now denied by the Post, which says that Lord Cowdray has not resigned. The Times also denies the Churchill appointment, but adds that it is likely to come in the near future.

Some of the papers ignore the press association's statement and the announced appointment of George Roberts, Labor member of parliament, as Minister of Pensions, is also now in doubt. According to the newspapers the executive committee of the Labor party met on Thursday and decided to send Mr. Roberts to Russia as the Chief delegate of the party.

Series of Photographic Plates Show Results of Aerial Bombardment

A STRIKING EXAMPLE Of Development of Photographic Observations and Record of Airplanes

DAMAGE DONE SHOWN Effect of British Bombs Upon the Port are Noticeable

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, June 7.--A series of photographic plates of the bombardment of Ostend which have arrived in London afford a remarkable example of the development of photographic observation and record by airplanes. They show in undeniable fashion that the British bombardment of Ostend last Tuesday was the most successful thing of its kind yet accomplished, ensuring that Ostend will be crippled as a useful German base for weeks, if not permanently.

There are several series of these Ostend plates in the little photographic record room of the Admiralty building, in Whitehall and they must be seen together to understand the result of Tuesday night's work. The first group of these were taken before the bombardment, and show the town in Panoramic squares. With a small reading glass it is easy even for an untrained eye to distinguish the essential features of docks, factories and harbor works, in their normal condition and to trace railroad tracks, streets and store yards.

A second group of plates taken before the bombardment, and show the town in Panoramic squares. With a small reading glass it is easy even for an untrained eye to distinguish the essential features of docks, factories and harbor works, in their normal condition and to trace railroad tracks, streets and store yards. A third group of plates taken after the bombardment, at first sight the pictures are disappointing. Taken from airplanes a mile or more above the town the pictures show no great general devastation. There are no large general changes in the outline of the town but when one gets down to careful comparison with the pictures taken before the bombardment, there are some striking changes here and there, which grow in importance as they are studied under a magnifying glass.

First of all there is the harbor. One is immediately struck by a slight change in the appearance of the great lock gates, on which all the activity of the harbor depends. The magnifying glass reveals some of the reasons for this change. The breaking down of the locks prevents the retention of water in the basin and the canals which feed it, incapacitating the entire port machinery. Equally effective in crippling the harbor is a hit on the operating machinery jamming the locks so that ingress is impossible until elaborate repairs are made.

The plates taken the day before the bombardment show a number of ships at anchor in the harbor or tied up in the inner basin. In the succeeding plates, some of these ships have disappeared and others are apparently half submerged. The long wharf looks like a caricature of its former self and two or three buildings in the dockyards, whose usefulness was indicated in the early pictures of new additions or alterations, have suffered badly. The pictures confirm the statement in the official communiqué that more than half of the buildings in the factory section of the town which is of military importance, have either been destroyed or badly damaged. It is easy to see that there may have been a heavy loss of life although the residential section was apparently untouched. Some of the ruined factories necessarily operate night and day, while many men are employed at night on the shipping and docks.