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FRENCH COUNTER-OFFENSIVE CONTINUES ON WIDE FRONT

British Check Germans Twelve Miles from Amiens--Enemy Forces Before Arras Thrown Back--Canadians Give Germans Another Heavy Dose of Gas--French Stop Hostile Advance Along Front of Oise.

ENEMY FOILED IN MAIN PLAN TRIES ANOTHER

Germans Definitely Beaten in Efforts to Separate Allied Armies.

WEAK SPOTS SOUGHT

Kaiser Has Only Twenty Divisions Left to Replace Wastages.

London, March 29.--(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)--Telegraphing from French army headquarters this evening, Reuter's correspondent says:

"The situation is now clearer than at any time since the beginning of the offensive. The enemy, arrested in mid-course, has abandoned marching straight up on objectives and breaking down resistance by overwhelming numbers. He is now striking at estimated weak spots in order to drive us back as far as possible before he himself is brought to a standstill. Thus the enemy drive down the Oise Valley is finally arrested. Attempts to cross the Oise further north failed, and the bridges are now destroyed."

"The village of Font Leveque, below Noyon, has been recaptured and the enemy driven from the heights above Susey, northwest of Noyon. The enemy's capture of Montdidier was just too late to profit by it, as French forces were able to engage the Germans to the west and bring them to a standstill, thus nullifying their efforts to pierce the junction of the Anglo-French armies. The hinge between the English and French armies will never be broken, as the junction is now covered by French forces strong enough to meet all eventualities."

"Picked German Troops. Eighty-seven enemy divisions, have been identified on 50 miles of battle-front, comprising the pick of the German troops. The French steadily engaged three guards divisions, the famous Brandenburgers, and some of the best Bavarian divisions of the offensive. The Germans had 100 divisions in line on the British front and 76 divisions in reserve. The enemy, therefore, has already engaged more than the whole of the reserves in France in the present battle, and has also denuded certain sectors of his best troops. To replace the losses, the enemy possesses about 20 divisions, and conceivably 40 of inferior material useful for filling gaps, but not for winning battles."

"Fierce at Junction. Describing the fierce fighting at the Anglo-French junction the correspondent says: 'French troops were brought up on the 23rd in motor lorries and thrown in without artillery support. Successive enemy thrusts necessitated fresh reinforcements, and troops were thrown northwards on the 23rd in order to maintain the liaison with the British right. French cavalry on the 24th were also thrown in for that purpose, and there were moments when the French were hard put to it to foil the German thrusts.'"

"A French officer, paying tribute to the British troops, described how the Germans crossed the canal at Jussy at the seventeenth attempt, the canal being then choked with German dead."

Germans Photograph Lines Occupied by Americans

With the American Army in France, March 29.--Continued activity back of the enemy lines is being observed. Last night wagon trains entered Montsec and Nonsard, speedy automobiles entered and departed from Pannies, and twelve horses, apparently bearing officers, arrived at Montsec.

"Our artillery effectively rained shells on wagon trains within range, and dropped others into a body of marching Germans. Before the rain started last night the German aerial activity was much increased. Numbers of airplanes tried, and some succeeded, in crossing our lines at various altitudes, obviously photographing and observing our positions."

Royalty on Yukon Coal Mines Suspended for Five Years

Ottawa, March 29.--An order-in-council has been passed suspending for a further period of five years the collection of royalty on coal mines in the Yukon. This step has been taken by the government because it is believed to be in the public interest that the mining of coal in the Yukon should be encouraged.

Alien Enemies Are Barred From All Lake Steamships

Seattle, March 29.--Seaboard companies along the Lakes are being notified that no alien enemies are to be allowed to ship aboard any boats plying the Lakes this season. If found on any ship they are to be at once arrested and imprisoned.

CEREALS IN HOLLAND FOR FIVE MONTHS

Total of 223,850 Tons, Which Will Be Given Out in Two Hundred Gram Rations.

Amsterdam, March 29.--It is estimated officially that the amount of cereals in Holland is sufficient to supply the demand for about five months longer.

Figures issued today covering the country's resources on March 23 place the stocks, quoted in tons, as follows: Wheat, 67,750; rye, 67,800; American flour, 10,000; potato flour, 2,500; stocks at flour mills 10,000. These aggregate 161,850. To them will be added the remainder of the home crop yet to be delivered and estimated to be 17,000 tons of wheat and 45,000 tons of rye.

This makes a grand total of 223,850 tons of all cereals which, given out on the basis of the reduced daily ration of 200 grams for each person, is expected to last until September.

GERMANS ADVANCE TO POINT TWELVE MILES OFF AMIENS

Enemy Reached Marcel Cave by Means of Heavy Massed Attacks.

HARD FIGHT AT ARRAS

Desperate British Resistance Holds Up Important Attempt for Kaiser.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 29.--The Germans were able to penetrate Marcel Cave, 12 miles east of Amiens, in the region south of the Somme, only by means of heavy massed attacks late yesterday, which gradually forced the British back.

The conflict in this region has been most sanguinary, and at latest reports it was a desperate struggle. The British fought roughly by Hamel, Wartuse, Abancourt and Marcel Cave. This point seemed to mark the extreme advance against the British.

The German attack in this region was made from Cerisy, on the Somme, and by artillery from across the river.

Yesterday's assaults on the extreme northern and southern parts of the battlefield were in continuation of the German scheme to break the lines out as far as to broaden the salient which they have driven in, and thereby possibly enable them to make an attempt to envelop Amiens.

The fighting east of Arras yesterday was of a desperate nature, especially in the region of Telegraph Hill, southeast of the city. Here the massed troops struggled at close quarters throughout the day, the British holding grimly to the positions which guard the already war-shocked town.

Neville Vitasse, southeast of Telegraph Hill, was occupied by the Germans. They also succeeded in getting a hold on Orange Hill, further north, and they were continuing their offensive.

The resistance along the British sector of the Arras-Albert road, was most gallant.

ANOTHER HEAVY DOSE OF CANADIAN GAS

Fifteen Hundred Drums Projected into Enemy's Front-Line Communications.

Canadian Army Headquarters, March 29.--All units and all ranks in the Canadian army look to the future and the possibility of their being engaged in the offensive now raging on their right flank with high courage and a steadfast determination that they shall be worthy of the high record of its forces. While nothing approaching battle-like activity on the whole of the front has yet developed, our army has been busy day and night. With moonlight nights there has been great aerial activity, our planes being busy behind the enemy lines, while hostile machines have bombed villages on our front, in some cases flying so low that they have swept the streets with their machine gun fire.

Sidell units of French civilians are to be met with on the road moving out of the shell area, but there is no general evacuation; and confidence and morale have increased that the enemy, in his desperate gamble for a decision, has hastened his final defeat.

North from Lens to Hill 70 we gave the enemy another heavy dose of lethal gas early this morning. No fewer than 1,500 drums were projected on his front line communications in the battle area. Thirty minutes later our guns opened up in a battle barrage which lasted for fifteen minutes and swept the enemy assembly, support and front line areas.

RIOTS IN QUEBEC; OFFICES WRECKED, TROOPS SUMMONED

Attacks on Two Newspapers and Offices of Registrar Under Conscription Act.

RECORDS DESTROYED

Militia Paraded With Loaded Rifles and Fixed Bayonets, Cowing Mob.

Quebec, March 29.--Rioting broke out afresh in Quebec tonight at 9 o'clock, and mobs of young men paraded the main street of the city. The unruly element in the throng soon got to the upper hand, and attacks were made upon the newspaper offices of the Chronicle Publishing Company and L'Evenement, two papers which have supported the Military Service Act, the enforcement of which caused the outbreak last night, when three federal policemen engaged in rounding up absentees from duty were savagely attacked and badly mauled.

The police of the city appeared powerless to check the crowd. Mayor Lavigne telephoned the Chronicle office and warned the employees there that an attack on the building was pending. The mayor was understood to ask the Chronicle "to do the best they could."

The crowd, after wrecking the newspaper offices, rushed up to the government office, which occupies the same building with the Auditorium Theatre. Men broke in the doors of the registrar under the Military Service Act and destroyed the furniture and records there. In the excitement a stove was knocked over and the building set on fire.

The firemen got the blaze in the registrar's office under control, but the records there were not saved. Many of them were thrown out of the window into the street.

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Mayor Lavigne finally decided that there was no hope of pacifying the mob, and read the Riot Act. The militia were then given orders to turn out, and were ordered to march through the streets, and the appearance of the soldiers had a quieting effect on the mob. A cordon around the Auditorium Theatre, while the firemen worked to get the fire under control.

Office Was Wrecked. The Chronicle office looked as if it had been struck by a cyclone. The presses were not badly damaged, but the paper will likely come out as usual. The interior of the office, however, was torn to pieces, the plate glass windows, picture frames, and furniture being turned upside down and all filing cases emptied, the staff being obliged to take refuge in the street to escape the flying fragments of glass, coal, ice and other missiles which came hurling from all directions from a mob of a couple of thousand people, many of whom, however, were merely spectators of the ravages. Not a single miscreant was captured, but the mob took away a magnificent moose head, the property of Major Sir David Watson, which was in the outer office, and paraded with it at the head of the procession. They also took away the time clock, with them, besides smashing up a couple of typewriters, snatching off the electric wires and doing other damage.

By midnight quiet had been restored, but no arrests had been made. Premier Borden, after consultation with the minister of justice and the chief of general staff, has wired Major Lavigne stating that from the press accounts no real effort was made by the municipal authorities to quell last night's disturbances, and requesting an explanation by wire.

Wheat and Wheat Products Are Wiped Off U. S. Menus

Washington, March 29.--Wheat and wheat products were wiped off the menus of several hundred of the country's leading hotels today in response to a request of the food administration that "every independent, every well-to-do person in the United States, should pledge complete abstinence from wheat until the next harvest, in order to supply the imperative needs of the allies."

Government Cannot Accept Proposals of War Veterans

Ottawa, March 29.--That the delegates of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada, who have been in conference with Sir Robert Borden and several of his colleagues this week, regret the inability of the government to meet their views in regard to the enemy alien, is indicated in a statement covers up here tonight. The statement covers the proposals made in regard to this matter, and a resolution expressing regret that the government was unable to accept them.

GEN. FOCH APPOINTED TO SUPREME COMMAND

Takes Complete Charge of All Allied Armies Fighting Against Germans in France.

Washington, March 29.--Official information has reached Washington that Gen. Foch, the French chief of staff, has been appointed to supreme command of all the allied and American forces in France.

This means unification of all the armies opposing the Germans, a step which the American and French military men have long urged, and which apparently has been brought about by recognition of the imperative demand for concentrated effort to hurl back the gigantic thrust of the enemy in France.

Fresh French Troops Have Reached the Fighting Zone

London, March 29.--The counter-offensive of the French continues between Montdidier and Lassigny, says the official communication issued this evening. It adds that fresh French troops are arriving on the scene.

GERMAN OBJECTIVES ARE VIMY AND ARRAS

But Attack by Ten Divisions Results in Severe Defeat for the Enemy.

FRESH FRENCH TROOPS

New Men in Heavy Fighting Friday South of the Somme River.

London, March 29.--Apart from local fighting at different points the enemy has not pressed his attacks today north of the Somme, according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight.

"We gained ground at certain places," the statement continues. "South of the Somme heavy hostile attacks developed during the morning in the neighborhood of Mesieres and Demum. Fighting is still going on in this sector."

"It is known from captured documents that the German attack yesterday was inconclusive, and the fighting resulted in a severe defeat for the enemy."

"In heavy fighting further south between Bussy and French troops, which resulted in further success, no fewer than 15 hostile divisions were identified."

More Heavy Fighting. Heavy fighting has taken place south of Somme, which the British have pressed back to a line running west of Hamel, Marcel Cave and Demum. This attack was carried out by at least six divisions in the front line, with four assault divisions in support.

Despite the force of the attack the impression made upon our battle position was inconclusive, and the fighting resulted in a severe defeat for the enemy."

"The French, says the announcement, are continuing their offensive on the southern front between Montdidier and Lassigny. Fresh French troops are arriving. East of Lassigny there is no change in the situation."

"The text of the announcement reads: 'North of the Somme we maintained all our positions. No serious attacks have been launched during the day.'"

Pressed Back a Little. "South of the Somme there has been heavy fighting. Our troops have been pressed back to a line running west of Hamel, Marcel Cave and Demum. On the French front south of Demum the French line runs thru Mesieres, La Neuville-Sire-Bernard and Gatluis to just west of Montdidier. There has been further heavy fighting today on this line."

"Between Montdidier and Lassigny the French counter-offensive continues. Fresh French troops are arriving. East of Lassigny there is no change in the situation."

"A captured German order shows that on March 21 the objective of an enemy division which attacked near St. Quentin was to be the Somme near Ham, a distance of at least 11 miles. Actually the division in question penetrated rather less than three miles."

Shell From the Mystery Gun Works Havoc in Paris Church

Paris, March 29.--Seventy-five persons were killed and ninety wounded, most of them women and children, when shell fired by a German long-range gun fell on a church in the region of Paris while Good Friday services were being held according to an official communication issued this evening.

Among those killed was H. Stroehlin, councillor of the Swiss legation in Paris.

This same church was struck by a shell during the celebration of high mass last Sunday and many casualties resulted.

GERMAN ADVANCE CONVERGING ON AMIENS RAILROAD CENTRE

CATEGORY "B" MEN TO BE CALLED FOR NON-COMBATANT SERVICE

Necessary to Secure More Men For Railway Construction Work and Similar Employment Overseas.

Ottawa, March 29.--Responding to a demand from the military authorities the military service council has decided to call up for service men in medical category B under the Military Service Act. Category B men are liable for overseas, but not for combatant service.

They are being called out because of the necessity of securing more men for railway construction and similar service. The official memorandum follows: "A military demand for men for railway construction and other similar work has arisen, and it has, therefore, become necessary to draft all men in medical category B in respect of whom no other grounds for exemption exist."

"The military service council is, therefore, issuing instructions to registrars to take immediate steps to call up such men."

"Under the procedure heretofore adopted questions arising in regard to the exemption of men in medical category B on other grounds were postponed until men in the same medical category should be called up; and these men, as well as their employers and relatives, will, therefore, be given an opportunity of presenting claims for their exemption."

ENEMY WILL NOT CONQUER AND WILL NOT BREAK THRU

Premier Clemenceau Returns From Front With Confident, Optimistic Message to the Nation.

Paris, March 29.--"The enemy will not conquer our resistance," said Premier Clemenceau, when surrounded by deputies at the Bourbon Palace upon his return from the front this afternoon. "I do not wish to pose as a prophet. That is not my habit, but, come what may, they will not break thru."

A few incidents showing the wonderful morale of the French troops were related by the premier. A battalion of territorial troops arriving at the front line yesterday were found awaiting the order for a counter-attack; sitting unconcernedly in a mud field within range of the German shells, which were breaking in the immediate vicinity.

"What are you doing here?" said M. Clemenceau. "We are at rest," responded a soldier quietly.

VALOR OF INFANTRY SAVES BRITISH GUNS

FIGHTING DIMINISHES ALONG OISE FRONT

Germans Took Position in Rear, Threatening to Cut Off All Artillery.

HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED

Section Swings Back to New Positions by Hamel-Lamotte--Magnificent Defence.

London, March 29.--(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)--Late this evening Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters telegraphed:

"On the whole British front, from Albert on the Ancre to the Somme at the mouth of the Oise, the line of the Somme has been held magnificently throughout the day. At one point only where the Germans got across the river in force, about Croissy, thus taking our troops in the rear in the neighborhood of Provant-Mericiourt, we fell back. But that retirement was a gallant and conspicuously well conducted operation. Our men were taken in the rear before they knew it, and in the threatened area there were guns to be withdrawn. Both infantry and guns faced round, and for a time the field guns were fired with open sights, while the infantry, charging in the most slashing manner, succeeded in driving back an enemy far outnumbering themselves to the river bank."

"This has been sharp fighting at Lassigny, where the German force has been repulsed by our troops with losses for the assault."

French 1919 Class to Join Colors at an Early Date

Paris, March 29.--The soldiers of the class of 1919 are to be called to the colors at an early date, which is to be fixed by the ministry of war. This was decided on by a vote of the chamber of deputies this afternoon. It is known that the ministry of war has decreed that the recruits shall report April 15. The chamber voted 490 against seven on a law demanding that the date of the calling of the class be advanced.

DINEEN'S MEN'S HATS.

Get your good hats early this spring. There is always an advantage in buying early, even when you have so large a stock to select from as that at Dineen's. We specialize in English lines--famous and exclusive makes at popular prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

Command of Foch to Last During Present Battle

London, March 29.--The Post says that the French and British governments have decided to appoint General Foch generalissimo on the western front during the present operations.

Offensive Slows Down After Eight Days and Progress Is Checked at All Except One Sector of the Front.

AFTER eight days, during which it has swept forward over the rolling hills of Picardy, at times like a tidal wave, the German offensive has slowed down. Instead of a sweeping advance, its progress has been checked at all except one sector of the front, and there it has been merely creeping for the past two days--this fact even is admitted by the German war office, which usually conceals nothing.

From Arras, north of Arras, to Albert, on the Somme, the British lines have been holding stubbornly and have thrust back the Germans at a number of points. From Albert south to Montdidier there has been a slow movement to the west, but the hills west of Montdidier are still being held by the French. No ground has been made against the French along the southern side of the salient driven in the allied lines, while it is asserted that the French counter-attack from Lassigny to Noyon is still going on. The extreme depth of the German wedge is now about 37 miles.

Meanwhile the allied world is waiting for the entente to strike back at the Germans.

Drive Must Come Soon. When this blow, if it comes, will fall, or when, is as yet sealed in the minds of the men directing the progress of matters, but seemingly it must come soon if it is to be effective. The German advance is now converging on Amiens, the railroad centre of northern France, which is known to be the ganglion from which run the main communications of the British army in northern France. The railroad from Paris to Amiens was cut by the Germans at Montdidier, but this would not be vital if Amiens itself is held by the allies.

The German thrust in front of Arras, which, according to Berlin, netted thousands of prisoners, apparently has come to a stop before Orange Hill, Telegraph Hill and the Lebrincht strongholds held by the British in this sector. Repeated mass attacks by the Germans on these points have resulted in terrible losses to them, without, however, breaking the line and causing more than a straightening of the front before Arras.

A German official statement declares that since the offensive began 70,000 prisoners and 1,100 guns have been taken. It is interesting to note that after seven days of fighting at Verdun the Germans claimed they had captured ten thousand. Taking into consideration the comparative magnitudes of the two struggles, the German claims for captures may be considered accurate.

The British reports are silent as to the progress made on the line from Lassigny to Noyon, except to say that the attack is still continuing and that fresh French troops are arriving in this region. Nothing has developed to show that this is more than a purely local engagement fought for the purpose of preventing the Germans from reaching the Oise River and having this stream as an additional protection to their left flank.

SEVENTY THOUSAND PRISONERS CLAIMED

Germans Announce Also That They Have Captured Eleven Hundred Guns.

Berlin, March 29, via London, March 29.--Successful engagements between the Somme and the Aves Rivers are reported in the German official statement issued this evening. The statement says:

"There have been successful engagements between the Somme and the Aves. Since the beginning of the great battle now in progress the German forces have taken 70,000 prisoners and 1,100 guns," says today's army headquarters.

"In local engagements on both sides of the Scarpe," according to the statement, "the Germans broke through the British positions and took several thousand prisoners."

"South of the Somme the German divisions of the British old peal drove the British out of their old positions in a westerly and northwesterly direction by way of Wartuse-Abancourt and Mesier."

"The British," the statement adds, "continued their fruitless and costly counter-attacks near Albert and to the north of it."

"Between the Somme and the Aves the Germans have attacked again."