

Berlin States Entente Allies Are Beginning Mighty Drive in France as Well as in Flanders

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FAIR AND WARM

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CANADIANS CAPTURE NUMBER OF VILLAGES GREAT DRIVE

HUNS HURLED BACK ON TWO-MILE FRONT BY THE CANADIANS

Brave Boys from Dominion Repulse Five Desperate Counter Attacks in Capturing Hill 70, One of Most Famous Defense Works Before City of Lens.

WEARERS OF MAPLE LEAF SUSTAIN BUT SLIGHT LOSSES IN ENTIRE ACTION, BUT LOSSES OF THE ENEMY WERE HEAVY—MANY PRISONERS CAPTURED BY CANADIANS IN THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

Bulletin—London, Aug. 15.—With only slight losses Canadian troops fighting south and east of Loos have captured German positions on a front of two miles, including Hill 70, a formidable defense work according to the British communication issued tonight. Five German counter-attacks were repulsed.

The communication follows: "This morning Canadian troops stormed German positions south and east of Loos on a front of two miles. The formidable defenses on Hill 70, which resisted our attacks in the battle of Loos in September 1915, and had since been improved and strengthened by every method and device known to our enemies, were carried by assault.

"After storming the enemy's first line trenches system on the whole front attacked, our troops advanced as far as the western defenses of Cite St. August, penetrating the German positions to a depth of about a mile.

CAPTURE SEVERAL VILLAGES.

"Besides the elaborate series of trench lines and strong points forming the defenses of Hill 70, the villages of Cite St. Elizabeth, Cite St. Emelie and Cite St. Laurent, as well as the Base Wood and the western half of the Hugo Wood are now in our possession. All our objectives were captured. Our casualties were slight.

"During the day five hostile counter-attacks were repulsed by our infantry, or broken up by our artillery. One of these was carried out by troops of the division Prussian Guards. The enemy's losses, both from our attack and his unsuccessful counter-attacks were heavy.

"The number of prisoners captured has not yet been ascertained, but 282, including fifteen officers, reached the collecting station this afternoon."

The Battle of Lens.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 15.—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—In the battle of Lens, which began at daybreak this morning, the Canadians have once more made a splendid and successful attack upon historic ground. The early reports indicate that the Germans' first and gone over a line, along a front of over 4,000 yards extending from the environs of Lens to the chalk pits, 1,500 yards south of Hulluch, have been carried by storm.

The assaulting waves included men from all parts of the Dominion. The war-worn veterans among them who answered the first call in 1914, were mingled with the recent drafts from the base, and whose first action it was.

All alike went forward with irresistible ardor over the most difficult ground, driving the enemy back before them. Among the objectives was Hill 70, east of Loos, where a fiercely contested battle was fought in September, 1915, and the Cite St. Laurent, the northern suburb of Lens.

The Key to Lens. News has come in from the troops who followed up and passed through the waves of attack that they have reached a point east of Hill 70, almost a mile from their jumping off trench. The enemy put up a strong resistance, and will probably counter-attack in force as soon as his reserves can be brought up, but what Canadian valor has won, can be trusted to hold.

Hill 70 is regarded by artillery experts as the key to Lens, and the enemy will not surrender the city except under unendurable pressure. No particulars as to our losses, or the number of prisoners taken, are yet available, but the artillery preparation was most thorough, and it is hoped that in the masses of churned up and shell pitted chalk on Hill 70, and in the half square mile of wrecked miners' houses in St. Laurent, few shelters remained for the enemy machine guns—his most effective means of defense.

BERLIN LOOKS FOR BIG DRIVE

French Set in Motion Terrific Bombardment Before Verdun.

Copenhagen, Aug. 15.—The renewal of the Entente offensive on the western front on a greater scale than ever before is looked for by German newspapers, according to Berlin despatches. It is expected that the new allied attempt may be made on a section of the front heretofore quite calm.

A heavy French bombardment on the Aisne and before Verdun, energetic reconnaissance activity, increased activity by aviators and the closure of the front Swiss frontier, are interpreted as signs of impending developments of greatest moment.

Plans on Great Scale. Berlin, Aug. 14.—Via Amsterdam, Aug. 15.—Another great offensive by the Entente Allies on the western front is expected by the Berlin evening newspapers. The Tagblatt says: "Doubtless offensive plans on a great scale exist on the French side, and simultaneously we must reckon with a resumption of the English attack in Flanders. The strong fire playing incessantly on these local points on the Aisne, at Verdun, and in Flanders announces that these attacks can speedily be expected."

The Voelische Zeitung says:—"It is true also that these attacks in the beginning can bring the enemy here."

RETAIL MERCHANTS ARE IN FAVOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE

Montreal, Aug. 15.—The Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, now holding a convention in the Windsor Hotel, adopted a strong resolution on the war today, declaring that the "ideal for which we are fighting in Europe are justice, freedom, honor and truth, and that as the voluntary system has not proved sufficient to guarantee those ideals, the Retail Merchants' Association is firmly convinced that the government of Canada should take such steps as would immediately bring into national service all the available resources of men, material and wealth in the Dominion in order that the struggle may be speedily brought to an honorable, successful and permanent conclusion.

Among numerous resolutions passed was one instructing the incoming executive committee to interview Premier Borden and members of the Dominion government "with a view to making possible the collecting of accounts from those government employees who make it a habit of not paying their accounts with retail merchants."

CANADIANS' MAINSTAY IN FORESTRY

Large Number of Lumber Experts in Lumber Industry Great Aid to Britain.

Ottawa, Aug. 15.—The large number of Canadians who have enlisted in forestry battalions and gone overseas is indicated by figures which Sir Edward Kemp, minister of militia, gave to the house in answer to a question by Mr. D. D. MacKenzie. Sir Edward said that four forestry battalions had been recruited in Canada and sent overseas, consisting of 165 officers and 4,664 men.

Also three drafts had been sent consisting of 175 officers and 5,165 men, making a total of 10,170 all ranks, under Brig. Gen. Alexander MacDougall. Recruiting is still going on in Canada and the total number now enlisted for forestry overseas is approximately 15,000. Sir Edward said that the rate of pay for forestry men was \$1.10 per day, the same as in the other branches of the service, but that overseas specially qualified men such as millwrights received from \$3.00 to \$5.50 per day.

and there at the front in possession of a piece of trench, but this must not frighten or worry us.

BRITISH GUNS BACKED THE CANADIANS

Hurricane of Fire Belched Forth from the British Lines.

BURNING OIL ALSO TERRIFIES ENEMY

Canadians Mount Hill 70 and Sweep Along the Rest of the Line.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 15.—(By the Associated Press)—After the brilliant advance this morning in which the Canadians captured Hill 70 and then swept on northwest of Lens the attackers were in close grips with the Germans in the western part of Lens late today.

The attack began at 4:25 o'clock just as the first signs of dawn were appearing. All night the British big guns had been pouring a steady stream of high explosive shells into the German positions, great detonations overlapping one another like the rapid crackling of machine gunfire and swelling into a mighty volume of thunder that shook the earth and stunned the senses.

Then, a short time before the hour of offensive arrived, the batteries abruptly ceased and a strange, almost oppressive, stillness, fraught with portentous cataclysm which must follow, crept over the country, which until then had been an inferno of death by the Canadian gunners working to the limit of their endurance for over three weeks. The advance took place on a front of 4,300 yards from Chalk Pits midway between Hulluch and Loos, southerly to Lens.

Loos lay within our lines about half a mile west of the jumping-off trench. Charged on Hill.

Suddenly, ten minutes before the time set for the attack, every British gun within range, broke out with a hurricane of shelling and solid lines of crimson lightning belched forth from the German trenches as the explosives broke about the enemy. This lurid picture was added the unforgettable spectacle of the burning oil my lines. Great clouds of pinkish colored smoke rolled across the country from the flaming liquid and the enemy threw back myriad colors from the conflagration below.

The moment of attack arrived and the British guns dropped their protecting barrage in front of the Canadian trenches, the clouds parted and the yellow crepuscular light appeared. Under the light of this beacon the Canadians leaped over the parapets and began their methodical advance behind their barrage fire.

British Barrage Perfect.

The British barrage was without a flaw. Behind it the Canadians mounted Hill 70 and swept along the rest of the line. On the crest of the hill where so much blood had been spilled before, heavy fighting might have been expected for the position was well manned with machine guns. The resistance here, however, was not strong and it was not until the dwellings in the outskirts of the suburbs were reached that vigorous fighting occurred. The ground over which the infantry advanced was honeycombed with British shell holes and the barbed wire defenses had been leveled so that they gave little trouble.

The first serious resistance from the Germans was met at a point where the enemy was entrenched strongly in concerted coils and here sanguinary fighting occurred.

Mass of Ruins.

The place is a sample of other suburbs about Lens. The city is surrounded with colliery communities which are so close together and so form the city proper that they really are one large metropolis. Lens before the war had a population of 30,000 but it is now a mass of ruins. Following their usual tactics, the Germans had carried out systematic destruction of the houses and had constructed strong underground defenses. The whole of the city is undermined with tunnels and dugouts which have been reinforced with concrete and steel beams.

CANADIANS LOST FEW IN DRIVE

Enemy's Lines Penetrated in Crescent Form in Brilliant Dash.

GREATEST DEPTH WAS 1,500 YARDS

Entire Attack Pushed With Irresistible Dash Over the Rough Ground.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 15.—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—In the final phase of the battle of Lens, which was begun this morning at dawn, the Canadian troops from every part of the Dominion stormed Hill 70, the historic ground east of Loos, and also Cite St. Laurent, a mining village which forms the northern suburb of Lens. A successful raid, which should have been arranged to take place after the capture of Hill 70 and St. Laurent, was launched at 8:30 a. m. on that part of the front to the west of Lens.

Losses Comparatively Small.

Save in the hard struggle to the east of Hill 70 our losses have been relatively small, when the far-reaching effect of the victory gained is taken into account, a very large proportion of those hit have shrapnel wounds, that are not serious.

The entire attack was pushed home with irresistible dash over ground that had been plowed with heavy shell by the Canadian gunners working to the limit of their endurance for over three weeks. The advance took place on a front of 4,300 yards from Chalk Pits midway between Hulluch and Loos, southerly to Lens.

Charged on Hill.

The chief objectives of the assaulting waves were Hill 70, northeast of Lens, and regarded as the key to Lens from the artillery point of view, and Cite St. Laurent, the suburb of Lens. To secure these positions it was necessary to penetrate the enemy's lines in crescent form, the greatest depth of advance existing being about fifteen hundred yards to a point between Hill 70 and St. Laurent, where machine guns were known to have been installed behind recently constructed wire entanglements, woven in and out among the debris of rows of miners' houses. The detection and destruction of wires under these conditions was very difficult, and it was recognized that here, if anywhere, the assaulting troops would have hard going.

COLD STORAGE CONTROLLED BY THE TRUSTS

Food Controller Hanna, Appointed by Dominion Government, Presents Some Facts—Is Chicago Cornering Things?

Ottawa, Aug. 15.—While Food Controller Hanna is proclaiming meatless and baconless days because of food scarcity, while a special commission is investigating the profits of the packers' trust, and while prices for meats and dairy products handled by the cold storage firms remain at top notch even in the normally low cost of living period of the year, accumulation of butter, eggs, cheese and meats by the

CANADIANS MAY CAPTURE MINING CITY OF LENS

Despite German Knowledge That Great Assault Was in Preparation Wearers of Maple Leaf Were Able to Storm Hill 70, Dominating Rising Ground North of City

Germans Brought Up Many New Guns to Defend Lens and Poured Troops Into Ruined City, But Terrific Onslaught Compelled Enemy to Fall Back—Huns Defending Lens Still.

London, Aug. 15. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Reuter's correspondent at British army headquarters on the western front telegraphs today:

"The Canadians attacked at 4:30 this morning Hill 70, dominating the rise of ground north of Lens. The position is a very strong one, being literally honeycombed with trenches, redoubts and isolated posts, and is wired to an extraordinary degree. For days our guns had been maintaining a steady and deliberate fire against these defenses. I betray no secret when I say that the Germans know perfectly well that an attack was coming hereabouts, their only uncertainty being precisely when and where. They had brought up many new guns since they made up their minds that they must meet an attack, and yesterday I was informed the cellars of ruined houses were full of troops. It therefore seems pretty certain that there will be bitter and prolonged fighting in this district, assuming that the Huns are loyal to their traditional policy of promptly counter-attacking.

Weather Unfavorable.

"The weather was not ideal for infantry attack, the night having been showery, with the result that the ground was a sticky mass, a condition difficult to advance over.

"The principal advance was from the chalk pits northeast of Loos, which gained such evil repute in the battles of September, 1915.

"Today's operations necessitated a considerable degree of changing of front and deploying of flank, in all of which the battalions employed had been very carefully rehearsed. Of course in addition to the movement indicated from the chalk pits there was a general advance along the whole battle front.

Battle May Extend.

"The first news that has come back is very satisfactory. The Canadians pushed forward on a front of over 5,000 yards to an extreme depth of about 1,500 yards. Hill 70 is well within the territory they advanced over. One needs only a map to appreciate the great tactical value of this success in relation to Lens and beyond.

"The British and Germans were in close grips in the western part of the city of Lens itself, following the brilliant morning advance whereby the Canadians captured Hill 70 and then swept on northwest of Lens.

Storing Butter.

In his monthly statement as to the quantity of food held in cold storage on August 1st, he says: "There is evidence of accumulation of butter, eggs, cheese and beef. The quantity of butter in storage now, exceeds by forty per cent, the quantity of eggs by thirty-one per cent, the quantity of cheese by twenty-nine per cent, and the quantity of beef by fifty per cent, that reported as held on August 1, 1916.

The returns for 1917 cover a few more farms than those of 1916, but this fact merely detracts from the proportion of the increase in accumulation. It is stated that the accumulation is to respond to orders for the export trade. The quantity of pork held is normal as compared with August 1st, 1916, figures. There is a forty per cent decrease in the holdings of bacon as compared with August, 1916."

Mr. O'Connor's statement compiled from returns made by ninety-six per cent of all cold storage companies in Canada shows that the quantities on hand at the first of this month were: Eggs, 13,001,751 dozen; butter, 12,250,124 pounds; cheese, 19,919,693 pounds; pork, 12,867,231 pounds; bacon, 6,062,983 pounds; ham, 2,301,799 pounds; smoked meats, 218,963 pounds; beef, 6,015,772 pounds; mutton and lamb, 604,101 pounds; pickled beef, 1,894,913 pounds; pickled pork, 15,459,533 pounds; fowl, all kinds, 3,265,854 pounds; fish, all kinds, 13,992,170 pounds.

Chief Asbell, who was sent for, summoned Coroner F. W. Wallace and the body, which had been removed from the bottom of the pool, was taken to the morgue.

Dr. G. N. Pearson examined the body at the morgue and pronounced life extinct. Coroner Wallace decided that an inquest was unnecessary. The body will be taken to Hammond tomorrow for burial. The deceased has been under medical treatment for heart trouble for some time.

SUSSEX MAN DROWNED AT KIRK HILL

Sussex, Aug. 15.—James Osborne of Hammond, who has been a resident of Sussex for the last three years, was drowned in the river back of Kirk Hill this morning. The deceased, who was 47 years of age, was engaged with his brother, Joseph, hawking for Robert McAfee, and about ten o'clock decided to go over to the river about three hundred yards distant, and take a bath. He was accompanied by his nephew, a young lad 12 years of age.

After undressing Osborne walked out on a spring board used by the boys at the swimming hole and dove into a pool, which is about 12 feet deep. He never came to surface after taking the plunge, and it is supposed he was stricken with heart failure.

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