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HOME
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BRITISH AND FRENCH ARE NOW COUNTER-ATTACKING

HAIG'S BARRAGE RIPS TO BITS ENEMY DRIVE AT DAWN

HAIG HITS BACK, FRENCH AIDING; BREAKS UP RUSH

British This Morning Opened Up Heavy Counter-Attacks Assisted By French Troops While Artillery Stopped Attempted Advance At Dawn Near Bapaume.

London, March 25.—The British this morning were counter-attacking between Nesle and Ham, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports. The French also were in action.

North of Bapaume, he states, the Germans were attacking in considerable force at dawn, but did not get through the British barrage.

UNITED STATES ENGINEERS IN IT.

American Engineers have again been in the throes of fierce conflict, in which they have done excellent work in transportation.

German cavalry in small numbers has been in action, but thus far it has been used merely to harass the British during their withdrawal. The Germans, says the correspondent, are relying upon sheer weight of numbers in their heavy attacks on the British lines, relieving their tired troops by fresh divisions which press forward without waiting for artillery support.

BATTLE BY MOONLIGHT.

The enemy all day yesterday and through the moonlight last night kept up his hammering of the British positions, the message states, the British troops resisting with valiant stubbornness.

The Germans are employing many small bodies of Uhlans, mainly as scouting patrols, it is added.

The Germans have been pushing forward by sheer weight of numbers, with the assistance of little artillery.

In the region between Bapaume and Peronne the British fell back again somewhat in the fighting late on Sunday. This marked the main success of the enemy, whose progress is being contested bitterly step by step.

Early this morning the Germans again hurled great numbers of infantry against the British line near Evreux, but at the latest reports the onrushing troops had been unable to force their way through the intense artillery barrage which the British maintained.

HEAVY BATTLE PROCEEDING.

A heavy battle also has been proceeding today on the British right flank, where the enemy had succeeded in forcing his way across the Somme and the canal south of Ham. The Allies were delivering counter-attacks with the purpose of pushing the invaders across the waterway.

GERMANS ARE WEARY.

There seems small doubt but that the German attacking troops are dog-weary, fighting under great strain; but this is mentioned merely as an interesting sidelight, and not for the purpose of sounding a note of optimism. Harder fighting than has yet occurred undoubtedly will follow.

The British have been fighting with traditional stubbornness, and at many points they have held the Germans back after their attack, although themselves greatly outnumbered.

Throughout the night the fighting was fierce fighting north of Bapaume, along the Bapaume-Arras road, but except that Mory again changed hands the defenders held their own gallantly.

EMPIRE CALM, CONFIDENT, GEORGE'S WORD TO HAIG

London, March 25.—King George today sent the following message to Field Marshal Haig: "I can assure you that the fortitude, courage and self-sacrifice with which the troops under your command continue so heroically to resist greatly superior odds are realized by me and my people. The Empire stands calm and confident in its soldiers. May God bless them and give them strength in this time of trial."

WILSON CABLES HAIG PRAISE FOR SPLENDID VALOR SHOWN

Says All America Confident Secure and Final Victory Will Be Won.

Washington, March 25.—President Wilson today cabled Field Marshal Haig congratulating him on the British stand against the German offensive and predicting a final Allied victory. The president's message read:

"May I not express to you my warm admiration of the splendid steadfastness and valor with which your troops have withstood the German onset, and the perfect confidence all Americans feel that you will win a secure and final victory?"

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ENEMY CLAIMS HAS BAPAUME; STATES 45,000 MEN CAPTURED

Berlin Reports Bapaume and Nesle Fallen to Hindenburg.

Berlin, March 25.—German headquarters reports that Bapaume was captured during the night.

In the evening Nesle was taken by storm, the statement adds. British, Americans and French were thrown back through a pathless wooded country.

More than 45,000 prisoners and more than 600 guns have been captured, the statement says.

Bapaume is on the northern part of the battlefield, where the British line for the most part has been held. It is one of the larger towns on the fighting front, from which a number of roads radiate. The official German statement of Sunday night said a gigantic struggle was taking place for the town. It is 13 miles below Arras.

Guiseard and Chauny were captured in the evening. Violent fighting developed for possession of Combles and the heights west of the town. The enemy was defeated, the statement says.

OTTAWA BELIEVES CANADIAN DRIVE IS COMING ABOUT LENS

Important Battle Announcement Likely To Be Made Wednesday.

Ottawa, March 25.—There is great interest about the corridors of Parliament in the news from the front, and it is not unlikely that before the House rises on Wednesday important official communications will be announced in Parliament. It is thought that the gas attack by the Canadians may be the forerunner of an offensive in the Lens sector, where the majority of the Canadian force is located. Confidential advice as to the progress of events in France are being received by Premier Borden from the war office.

DUTCH HAVE REFUSED ALLIES GRAIN OFFER?

Will Not Sanction Seizure in Exchange for Food.

London, March 25.—The Dutch cabinet is said to have decided Sunday to send the allied powers a formal refusal of their offer of grain in return for Dutch ships, a dispatch from The Hague to The Daily Mail says.

The official compact for the use of Dutch ships by Great Britain and the United States called for the placing at the disposal of Holland of 100,000 tons of foodstuffs. Dutch ships were to carry this food.

HERBERT R. YATES DEAD.

London, March 25.—Herbert R. Yates, a noted railway engineer, died today, in which profession he worked with his father, Herbert Yates, one of the chief engineers of the Grand Trunk Railway, passed away this morning.

He was a long noted sportsman, being a clever cricketer and tennis player and a good shot. For twenty-five years past he had been one of the most active members of the Brantford Golf Club, being captain of the local team at one time. He is survived by a widow, whose mother, Mrs. Alexander, died yesterday, and one son, Rushton of this city. The funeral on Wednesday will be a double one.

HENRY OF REUSS KILLED.

London, March 25.—Prince Henry of Reuss, head of the younger branch of the Reuss family, has been killed in the fighting on the western front, according to a Central News dispatch, quoting advice received from Berlin.

FALLS DOWN SHAFET.

Brantford, March 25.—Ava Shaver, an aged employee of the Massey-Harris Company, was killed this morning when he fell down an elevator shaft at the plant, a distance of 15 feet. He had been ill for some time, but reported to be better, and it is thought that heart failure caused his fall.

MAN WHO LEADS FREEDOM'S LEGIONS



Admiral Sir Douglas Haig.

SEA FORTS AND THE BUFFS WIN UNDYING GLORY

Kitties Cover a Retiring Force Until Nearly All Had Fallen.

BUFFS STUCK TO THE END

Battalion of a London Regiment Fought Until But 30 Men Were Left.

London, March 25.—The village of Mory, southwest of Cambrai, was the scene of a desperate battle yesterday. The British preliminary bombardment was terrific and their infantry outnumbered the German guns. Next, after an interval of two or three hours, the British advanced. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British lines.

In the other main theatre of operations, between Bapaume and Arras, the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between the Oise and the Somme. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific and their infantry outnumbered the British guns. Next, after an interval of two or three hours, the British advanced. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British lines.

During Friday the Germans overran St. Quentin, Valenciennes and Henin. One company of machine gunners on Henin Hill held up the German advance for a long time, inflicting a deadly execution in the densely formed ranks.

All of them did valuable work in delaying the German waves of advance. They were surrounded and subjected to a terrific fire, but all held on during the first day of the attack until late in the afternoon.

In North Essex suffered most from the machine gun fire. Their mode of attack in crossing No. Man's Land was a first wave of two companies, marching almost shoulder to shoulder, the principle of blockhouses in South Africa, with formidable belts of barbed wire around them, and a strong armament of machine guns and trench mortars, and provisioned for two days.

BRITISH BLOCKHOUSES DELAYED GERMAN WAVES

London, March 25.—The Daily Mail's report of the battle now in progress, says: "Along a considerable part of the front there was a series of redoubts about a mile apart, each redoubt being held by a hundred men, somewhat on the principle of blockhouses in South Africa, with formidable belts of barbed wire around them, and a strong armament of machine guns and trench mortars, and provisioned for two days."

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HAIG'S HEROES OUTNUMBERED EIGHT TO ONE

Each British Battalion Had To Face Division of the Enemy.

ONE EVERY 2,000 YARDS

Main Thrust of Foe Made Against Right Flank To Get High Ground.

British Army Headquarters in France Sunday, March 24.—By the Associated Press.—The main thrust on the British right flank by the Germans Thursday morning was south of St. Quentin and the enemy used division for every 2,000 yards of the front, there being approximately one German division against every British battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urvillers and Esbigny-le-Grand, and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It is now possible to give some details of the early stages of this and other fighting.

Battle in Lowlands.

On the extreme right of the British line the enemy crossed the River Oise at two places. One body of troops crossed at Fere, and another at Noyon, while another army crossed at Moy and turned south to form a junction with the La Fere group, there being approximately one German division against every British battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urvillers and Esbigny-le-Grand, and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It is now possible to give some details of the early stages of this and other fighting.

A Gallant Defence.

South of St. Quentin a number of strong British redoubts made a gallant defence and it was not until the last of them that their machine guns, had been reduced. The end of the first day found the British behind the La Fere, succeeded in getting across to the British side.

Further north the British also withdrew from the Noyon wood. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British lines.

In the other main theatre of operations, between Bapaume and Arras, the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between the Oise and the Somme. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific and their infantry outnumbered the British guns. Next, after an interval of two or three hours, the British advanced. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British lines.

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HAIG HURLS FOE BACK TO SOMME'S EAST BANK; FRENCH ARE NOW IN IT

THE WAR SITUATION

France has thrown the weight of her forces into the great battle as a whole, and the British and French armies are now battling together against the onslaught of the common enemy in his desperate attempt to break through the Allied lines.

British Holding Fast.

The British armies are holding fast along the line of the Somme and also in the region north of Bapaume. Field Marshal Haig reports today. The Germans in their thrusts in the latter section reached the British trenches at only one point, and there they were immediately ejected. Their attacks elsewhere were smothered by the British fire, with great losses to the enemy.

The Somme line bodies of German troops which had succeeded in forcing their way across the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne, were driven back to the eastern bank. On both sides of Bapaume the German attacks were repulsed with heavy losses.

The Danger Point.

The greatest danger point at present seems to be further south, where the Germans apparently have driven along the Somme in retreating in 1917, as the Paris statement today reports heavy fighting in the region of Noyon. This town is some ten miles to the west of Chauny, in the region of the Somme. The Germans are reported to be using Franco-American reserves, but the German advance probably has been considerably short of Noyon.

A Deep Wedge.

The wedge driven into the Allied line is evident, a deep one, however, as the French troops are reported by Paris to be contesting the position to the north of Oise with important German forces. The Oise on this day of the front runs east of Chauny and passes to the south of Noyon.

Paris Showing Little Interest in Unique Attack—Air-Men Hunt Gun.

Paris, March 25.—The Matin says one of the shells fired in the direction of Paris yesterday by the Germans struck a church in the suburbs. Several of the persons who were attending a Palm Sunday service were killed.

Paris, March 25.—The long-range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6:30 o'clock this morning, but was interrupted after the second shot.

After a brief interval two more shots were fired. The bombardment was again suspended at 8:10 o'clock.

As was the case yesterday, the people did not take to shelter. Cellars which were filled on Saturday remained empty this morning. Little interest was shown in the bombardment.

Soon after they were awakened by the first shot and the people were brought to their windows by the rattling of drums. Policemen circulated through each quarter of the city, introducing the new system of alarm which is distinguished from the alarm in the case of air raids. The police came in for a great amount of chaffing, the people being greatly amused at their lack of propriety with the drumsticks.

Paris Not Worried.

This appeared to mark their limit of interest in the bombardment.

Work was resumed under normal conditions. All the transportation lines were running. The streets were full of people whose sole subject of conversation was the new battle of the Somme which is generally compared with Verdun.

AIRMAN HUNTING IT.

Paris, March 25.—It is to be hoped that the gun which shelled Paris will very shortly be silenced, says the Figaro, which gives the following quotation from a man who is said to be in a position to know: "A 250-millimetre gun which bombarded Dunkirk two years ago from a distance of 25 miles was located by our aeroplanes, and soon put out of action. The same methods will be adopted with regard to the 240-millimetre gun which has been bombarding Paris for the past two days. Since Saturday our aeroplanes have been looking for it, and the fact that it is stopped, perhaps, by the arrival of the gun is definitely placed; then its capture will soon be over."

The military authorities, according to another morning newspaper, are convinced that the Germans are using two new guns, while Richard Asprey, the military expert of L'oeuvre believes there is a whole battery of them.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 50; lowest, 25.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 53; lowest, 25.

British Last Night Repulsed Heavy Attacks Near Bapaume and Drove Portion of the German Troops Across River—Fresh Attacks Developing, With Bapaume As the Storm Centre.

FRENCH TAKE OVER FRONT FOR THE HARD PRESSED BRITISH