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BRITISH HAVE 14,000 PRISONERS

Gen. Nivelle Commences His Advance Towards Laon on 25-Mile Front by Hammering at the Southern End of Hindenburg Line and Taking German Positions in Several Places

att of the offensive plans has been orked out at prolonged conferences ce and England.

The part to be played by each belnt has been definitely agreed Various tasks have been preallotted along the wide reachbattle lines, and the results thus

hould strike from Arras, while the mench guns were still roaming their for infantry hostilities south. The successes gained in the around in their own pits, thus formfirst stages of the British advance have given the French great confidence n the inauguration of their own on-

theatre promises to be a titanic one. The allies are prepared as never before, both in material and personnel, operating with a smooththe work in hand. The Germans more divisions on the western ont than would have been thought ble a year ago, and however much of an "easterner" Field Marshal von Hindenburg may have been in the ast he will have to devote his entire time and attention to western events for some weeks to come.

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Bavarians Sacrificed. Aiready half a score of Germany's st divisions have been smashed to deces by the British onslaught and heir own unsuccessful counter-atacks. The Bavarian divisions were acrificed first, but the Prussian guard divisions thrown in to stem the British food tide have been suffering such casualties in the past few days that

they will have to be relieved. The Canadians accounted for a large contingent of grenadiers in the fighting about the Pimple, while yesterday's affair at Lagnicount took its heaviest toll both in dead and prisoners from five German guard regi-

It will ever be one of the most striking pictures of this war, the rout of the Germans at Lagnicourt, after what they believed to have been a successful attack. Running for their own trenches, which were part of the famed Hindenburg line, they were trapped by barbed wire entanglements, which had been built with such great strength and thickness in front of hem. The boast of the Hindenburg has been its belts of protective

Caught within the meshes of this wire, the German guardsmen screamed nadly for help and guidance. Some ike trapped rabbits scurried up and down the outer barrier searching in vain for openings. The British troops meantime, had the greatest opportunity for open field rifle shooting since he battle of the Marne. Lying flat upon the ground, they poured bullets into the panic-stricken gray-coated Germans until each man had fired a

While this was going on, the British field guns came into play with a shrapnel barrage, which completed demolition of the entrapped enemy. It was little wonder that later fifteen hundred German dead could be counted or that four hundred guardsmen surrendered with upheld hands and emotional cries of "kamerad."

Everywhere they have been pushed tack from the British front, and especially north of the "rolled-up" portion of the Hindenburg line, the Garmans are endeavoring by every mens to gain time in order to complete defences upon which to fall back. Their efforts to dig in everywhere and seek the shelter of the strongly fortified lines do not tend to

sacrificing their picked troops, as they war raging along the entire did during the rear-guard engage refront, British and French nents in the recent retirement on the t can be stated that each de- Somme. The character of the troops selected for these engagements is considered the best evidence of the imon Gen. Nivelle and Field Mar- portance the Germans attach to what al Haig and the war councils of plainly appears to be their desire to avoid decisive battles just at this

time. Lens is Invested. Lens was virtually invested today altho the Germans are making a desperate effort to hold their positions there, as Lens seems to be the pivot of the new back swing of the Gertitained justify the conclusion man lines necessitated by the battle that the supreme military test of the of Arras. Against these German strong points many German guns were turned today, for with the heavy thousands of rounds of ammunition British gun crews were rushed up to man these weapons, which were turned

ing British gunnery outposts, while their own guns were moving forward. Explosions continue within Lens and the statement reads: the outlying mine districts, and there seems little doubt that the mines will sible. Fires were still seen within the

British attack was somewhere crush- ordered to retake Monchy le Preux at ed, and that the Germans had taken hundreds of prisoners. A certain Irish regiment, fighting in the vicinity adventurous spirits planted a board in "No Man's Land" a few nights ago saying: "We took nine thousand

Huns yesterday." The Germans endeavored all next day to shoot the board down, but they did not succeed. That night the Irish planted a second board reading: "Sorry, we made a mistake, should have been 11,000 Huns instead of

The Irishmen fought with great bravery just under the brow of the Pimple on Vimy ridge, and were up against a steady stream of machine gun fire from the Pimple until the Canadians wiped it off the face of the

"We knew the Canadians would clear them out; so we didn't worry," said smiling Irishman today.

14.000 Prisoners In Seven Days

London, April 16 .- Since the morning of April 9, says the official report from British headquarters in France. tonight, "we have taken over 14.000 prisoners. The captured material includes 194 guns.

"There is nothing of special interest to report. A heavy rain has again fallen thruout the afternoon." The following official statement was

issued this (Monday) morning. "We captured last night the Village of Villeret, southeast of Hargicourt, and progressed northwest of Lens.

"Full particulars of the booty we took at Lievin and on the Souches River are unavailable, but the fact is established that our captures were exsix-inch naval gun, many thousand to eight-inch, a number of trench mortars, and great quantities of bombs and grenades of all kinds. In addition, truck loads of new tools, many lengths

hopes that the warfare might become open again. In fighting these retarding actions the Germans are sacrificing their picked troops, as they TAKEN IN FRENCH ADVANCE

German Lines Attacked Between Soissons and Rheims and Whole Positions Fall to French, Who Also Advance to Outskirts of Bermericourt, Capturing Thousands of Men and Important War Material.

Paris, April 16.—The French began an attack this morning, after several days' artillery prepara pleces captured by the British were tion, between Soissons and Rheims. Several German lines were carried and more than 10,000 Germans were taken prisoner.

> The official announcement of this success issued by the war office tonight describes the fighting as being of the utmost violence. The text of

"Between St. Quentin and the Oise artiflery fighting continued thruout the day. South of the certainly be destroyed as far as pos- Oise we made new progress on the plateau east. of the line of Barisis-Quincy Basse.

About St. Quentin, at the southern preparation which lasted several days, we attackbeen hard fighting, much of it being ed this morning the German lines along an extent, actively during the day on the rest of the hand to hand. As one officer express- of about 40 kilometres. A desperate battle was cannonade was intermittent on the rest of the fought along the whole front, where the enemy front. bayonet, causing heavy losses to the enemy."

"Belgian communication: There was artillery fighting along the whole Belgian front."

overcame the energetic defence of our adversary.

"Between Soissons and Craonne the whole
German first position fell into our power. East of Craonne our troops occupied the enemy's second position south of Juvincourt. Further to the south we carried our line as far as the outskirts of Bermanicourt and an include the course of last the south we carried our line as far as the outskirts of Bermanicourt and an include the course of last the line of the lin Bermericourt and up to the Aisne Canal at Loivre

"Violent counter-attacks launched several times north of Ville-au-Bois were broken down by German system of first line trenches our fire, with considerable losses to the enemy. was overrun. In the dip eastward to

Progress Along West

NO RESPITE ALLOWED

Severe, Says Official

Report.

There is a delay in getting the prem-

condition for regular bus

Tigris Bank.

of the Arras fight, except that a the divisions already in line. It was still on our front, as the capture of

"Its losses in this fruitless attack were exceptionally heavy, as has been of Lens, has, during a breathing spell, the case with all the Bavarian troops taken pains to inform the enemy of thruout the whole recent operations. the results at Arras. Some of the Of the prisoners taken by us since the ians."

Canadians Earn Additional Praise

By Stewart Lyon Canadian Headquarters in France

the field of Vimy at the Canadian corps front, continues to yield remarkable results. The artillery captured now totals: one naval gun, 35 howitzers, many of large calibre; 27 field guns, 124 machine guns; 87 trench mortars.

Stripped of this large proportion of his material, the enemy has been unable to organize any serious counter-

attacks. Our outposts have been pushed for ward to the wood of Mont Goret, in the region of Arleux.

Now that communications have been opened across the dessert made by our gunfire, it is no longer necessary for will grow to a million people. But the military reasons to withhold information as to the fight against adverse weather conditions, which were far more prolonged than that against the ALLIES BOMB FREIBURG enemy. The ridge was won by the splendid fighting qualities of our men and held by ceaseless toll thruout the and shovel, who opened up trails where roads could not be built because of the

conditions of the ground. The work of

restoration is still in progress, but the

ridge already is impregnably held.

The people of Canada should know that our soldiers have earned praise in this hurried construction of the means of communication almost as emceedingly large, including a long range phatic as that given to them after the battle of Vimy Ridge. At first every rounds of ammunition of all calibre up pound of food and ammunition and every gallon of water used had to be carried on slippery trails by manpower. Even pack mules could not negotiate the labyrinth of shell holes of tram lines with truck complete, and and craters. Our men cheerfully worked

ary side of the campaign taken up BRITISH DRIVE The prisoners taken in the southern Wood during the Somme battle in 1916, itary side of the campaign taken up parts of the line had heard nothing was again hurried down to reinforce. The Prussian Grenadier Guard is prisoners this (Monday) morning proves. The total of prisoners for the week was well over four thousand.

The World All the Way!

The World is winning out all along Today it is free wheat (see page two) Tomorrow it will be public ownership

And a national policy for nickel preceded by a confiscation of all and any German ownership in our Sudbury mines will be next.

The new party that The World spok via London, April 16.-Exploration of of is taking shape in the grain growers party in the west; it will include the labor party that was floated out in Toronto on Saturday last, and will sweep this city and all the Hamilton and Ni agara district, not to mention the rest of the towns and cities of Ontario, and the mining country to the north. And we're going to take the civil ser vice out of politics-no political pull in

> ment railways, every limb and every And The World's national currency national banking, national system of loans to farmers, are all on the way. And The World has something new citizens will accept gladly. Toronto has to be given a fresh new start, and she

the postoffice, custom house, govern-

will see that the corpse is ready." AS ACT OF REPRISAL

Wee York methods must first be buried.

The funeral is ordered and The World

week, by thousands of men with pick Many Bombs Dropped With Good Results-Three Machines Missing.

Lordon, April 16 .- A British admiralt staten:ent issued tonight says: "In consequence of German subman attacks on British hospital ships in direct and flagrant contravention of British and French airpianes carried out a reprisal bombardment of the Town of Freiburg Saturday. Many bombs were dropped with good results.

'Despite a large number of air fights with hostile airplanes, all our machines except three returned safely."

Thousands Seek to Attend Service in Honor of U.

two engineers dumps have fallen into our possession.

"The attack at Monchy le Preux on the 14th, was pressed by the enemy with great determination. The third Bavarian division, which was brought down to resist our offensive during the battle of Loos in 1915, and later on took part in the fighting near High ness, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices, Dineen's, 140 Yonge street,

counted and caged. Hindenburg was not unprepared, For

lery has heralded the attack and for the last four days the hurricane fire the war. Along the whole front the and of the most savage nature. In a German command had grouped what short time German prisoners, singly the Paris night communique describes as "very important forces and numer- to the French positions. All of them ous artillery."

But the French fire had done its up mud and scarcely a machine gun remained in place to check the charg-ing battalions hurrying forward along both banks of the Aisne River. From beyond Soissons to Craonne the whole

between Craonne and Juvincourt, al- penetrated the enemy's second line most before the French had time to TURKS TO HILLS supports flung forward in a counter-Britis attack, following it up again and again as they were thrown back by big gun pressure. The announcement is made Gen. Maude's Forces Make parrage and machine gun bullets. Berlin admits the ferocity of the at- German prisoners have been sent back

tack and says "a bitter fight is pro- to the cages, fully a third of them ceeding around our foremost positions." Bavarians, and that 194 captured guns Paris credits the defenders with have been parked. The losses of the tenacity and energy. It is evident that the battel is in its earliest stages and that Hindenburg is prepared to Losses to Turks Are Very exact the full blood price for every foot of territory wrested from him.

Threaten Lower Hinge. This he must do, for the French are thrusting at the Craonne Plateau, a position even more formidable than London, April 16 .- A continuation of the official communication of last Saturday, dealing with Gen. Maude's op- end of the far flung battle line and erations against the Turks in Mesopo- now in the hands of the British. It tamia, was received here this after- is the lower hinge of the Hindenburg noon, The Saturday communication line, the southern pier upon which he told of the fighting from April 10 to bung his precarious suspension bridge during the great retirement. But the April 13, and reported progress for the British along the west bank of the highland rises abruptly to a com-Tigris, toward the Diala and a with- manding height along its western drawal of the Turks from various scarpe and is considered impregnable points. The delayed portion of the to a frontal assault. The French are ommunication, received tonight, says: trying to sweep northeastward, past "Gen. Maude's forces continued to and around it so that they may bring o drive back the Turkish troops dur- their guns to bear upon its gentler ing the 13th, making eighty prisoners. stope. However, the Craonne Plateau The great heat rendered the task of proved too great an obstacle even for keeping in touch with the retreating Napoleon. It was here that the Prusenemy difficult. No respite was allowed the Turks, nowever, and on the back in the Marne campaign of more Lens, indeed, seemed about to fall enloth, Gen. Maude reported that they than a century ago.

were back in their positions in the Thus the interest of the vast drive Jebel Hamrin Hills, whence they the wiles are carrying against the intrenched Germans over a front that in "The 13th Turkish Army Corps, operations, has suffered very severe lesses. Three hundred and five dead, and not 200 as was previously stated, were found on the battlefield April 11 and canal country thru which the which was the force engaged in these heaps of Lens to the rolling uplands The Jebel Hamrin Hills are situated between the Tigris and Diala Rivers, where the Turks have been making tor, Field Marshal von Hindenburg ous efforts recently with the aid faces a critical week. Indeed, the Gorvigorous efforts recently with the aid of reinforcements, to stay the advance of the British and Russians. On Satman Empire faces a critical week, for urday the British war office announced that the Turks had been driven from their positions near Ghallyeh, about 45 miles above Bagdad, and were with-drawing toward Dely Abbas, which is at the base of the Jebel Hamrin Hills. battle may well be the deciding engagement of the war. That the German high command realizes it is no mere series of attack upon first line trenches for purely tactical successe THE PRICES THE ATTRACTION. is indicated by the Berlin night bulletin, which refers to "a great French The prices that prevailed for the attempt to break thru with a far-

> distant object" A Thrilling Start. Observers with the French armies

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

London, April 16.—French armies fire of the guns, which had nover took up the burden of the allied of broken for ten days, rose steadily to ensive in the west today. General a nerve-shattering pitch. Suddenly, Nivelle struck on a front of twenty. all along the line, as tho by a stopfive miles from Soissons to Rheims, watch, the continuous clangor ceased. sweeping across the enemy's trenches The next minute Papa Nivelle's little every there and in many places pene- soldiers, thousands and thousands of trating the hostile lines to a depth of them, mile after mile of them, were two miles. More than ten thousand over the trenches and trotting into the German prisoners have already been open. Black patches of bursting German shell rained over them but still they pressed on, dropping here and ten days the thunder of French artii- there, until their gray-blue uniforms

were part of the grayness of the day. The fighting in the churned up passed, was a matter of man to man and in groups, began to stagger back caked with mud and trench filth, and many of them were bloodsoaked. Then The Paris night statement asserts that a great deal of important material was

taken which has not yet been inventoried. "The number of prisoners made by us up to the present exceeds 10,000. Likewise we captured important material, which has not yet been inventoried.

"In Champagne artillery fighting continued to the success was as great and south of Juvincourt the German second position was occupied. Turning southeastward along the old present the great three to right or to left of it. Below the success was as great and south of Juvincourt the German second position was occupied. Turning southeastward along the old present the British drive in the north spread, mile by mile. The French offensive did not slow down the artillery fire either to right or to left of it. Below the continued ward as far as the outskirts of Champagne. Nivelle is giving Hindenless than five miles north of Rheims. ing the day there were strong French The German defenders recovered gress was made on the plateau east quickly from the first shock and of the Barisis-Quincy-Bassee line. On fought with fury. Where the line sags the Alsatian Plain, too, French troops

> British Still go on. Nor have the British relaxed their Bavarians is emphasized in the British report. It was the third division of Prince Rupprecht's command which was called on to counter-attack at Lagnicourt, the same troops which had

at several points and counted many

Loos in 1915, and again at High Wood on the Somme. The Berlin day report claims the capture of 475 prisoners and the destruction of 22 British guns as well as sanguinary losses inflicted on the Australians. But the Germans did not stay long in Lagnicourt. The British counter-thrust was reminiscent of the days before trench warfare, one company advancing, firing and falling. while another company fired over their heads. It proved highly successful-1500 German dead were found when

the field was cleared.

suffered so heavily in the battle of

Thru the pouring rain this afternoon the British advanced at both ends of their line, making more progress to the northwest of Lens, and capturing Villaret, near Hargicourt, and the Butte known as "The Three Savages" east sians, under Blucher, threw him of Gricourt, just above St. Quentin. tirely into British hands. British patrols are well within the environs and pressing into the city itself. The work of German destruction is still going skyline alone covers more than a forward, but the British bombardment hundred miles, shifts from the slag is only centred on certain parts of the city. It is evidently Gen. Haig's intention to save as much of the town French are smashing. If Nivelle's as possible and to drive out the Gerforces meet with the same success that man bombing parties "by hand" rather rewarded the British in the Arras sec- than by heavy explosives. The British list of enemy material gathered around the mouths of mines and behind the it is recognized that this extending slag pyramids thus far cleared out. Active artillery fighting is reported over the whole Belgian front.

TO PLANT MORE WHEAT.

Washington, April 16.-Farmers of the spring wheat belt, particularly these of North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Washington, Montana and Idaho, were called upon by Secretary Hous'on today to plant more wheat im ned ately to make up the serious shortage threatened by the as thrilling in the extreme. The day wheat crop.