

# The St. John Standard

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WEATHER—SHOWERY

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## BRITISH TROOPS ENTER LENS WHILE FRENCH ARE POUNDING AWAY AT OUTSKIRTS OF ST. QUENTIN; HINDENBURG LINE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SMASHED

### FRENCH GUNS SHELL ST. QUENTIN WHILE BELGIANS NEAR DIXMUDE PRESS TO GERMANS' SECOND LINE

Sunday on Western Front  
Marked by Heavy Artillery Fighting.  
**BRITISH CAPTURE**  
LARGE NUMBER GUNS  
Good Progress for Allies on all Parts of Front—Enemy's Fighting Spirit Clearly Broken.

Paris, April 15.—The French guns today continue to shell St. Quentin and region round about heavily, says the official communication issued by the war office tonight. Belgian troops penetrated Dixmude as far as the second line of the Germans, which they found unoccupied. The statement reads:  
"In the region of St. Quentin the artillery fighting was violent during the greater part of the day. Our batteries caught under their fire and dispersed concentrations of enemy forces reported north of Hancock (southeast of St. Quentin)."  
"Artillery actions occurred in various sectors north of the Aisne and in Champagne. In Lorraine we carried out destructive fire on the German positions on Le Pêtre Wood and Farroy Forest."  
"Belgian communication: In the course of the night, after violent artillery preparation, Belgian troops penetrated Dixmude as far as the second enemy line, which they found unoccupied. On the entire Belgian front the artillery fighting was spirited to day."

"Eastern theatre: During the day there was increasing enemy artillery activity in the zone comprised between the German head and Lake Fresub. After a bombardment with poisonous shells, enemy detachments attacked last night the Italian positions on Hill 1050. Met by a lively fusillade they were compelled to withdraw."  
"West of Kortz, in the direction of Moshopole, skirmishes took place to our advantage with bands of Albanians supported by Austrians."  
"French aviators bombarded the retreating centre at Bogdanel, in the Vardar Valley."

Heavy Artillery Work.  
Paris, April 15.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:  
"Between St. Quentin and the Oise our batteries continued their destructive fire. Our troops have organized the ground which we gained yesterday. The enemy has countered with his artillery on our first line, especially along the valley of the Somme."  
"South of the Oise we have made progress northeast of Quincy Basses. Our artillery has been active against the German organizations of the forest of St. Gobain, and the upper forest of Conchy. North of the Aisne and in the Rehime, both artilleries were active."  
"In Champagne and the Voges the commanding was quite violent in various sectors. An enemy surprise attack on one of our small posts northeast of Ville-Sur-Tourbe failed."  
"Belgian communication: Cannonading on both sides occurred in the region of Dixmude, Zuyd-Schoote and Hel-Ess."

British Take Many Guns.  
London, April 14.—Reuter's correspondent at army headquarters in France sends the following: The number of guns and howitzers captured by the British is now believed to be 200. The loss of these weapons must considerably weaken the German defensive power. Trained teams of artillery men now accompany the infantry in every advance in order to make prompt use against their former owners of any guns taken.  
"The great batches of prisoners in the cages are causing some annoyance because they disregard entirely their own officers and non-commissioned officers. This absence of discipline is regarded as significant, because nothing like it has been observed before among German prisoners. It seems indicative of a change of mind in the German army. German officers and non-commissioned officers complain that the chief cause of the present disaster is the difficulty in controlling the men."

SIR HIBBERT TUPPER'S SON KILLED IN ACTION.  
London, April 14.—S. G. Tupper, attached to the Canadian infantry, and a son of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, has been killed in action.

### ITALIANS DO GREAT AIR WORK

Under Adverse Conditions Italian Airmen Successfully Bombard Important Points.

Rome, April 14, via London, 1 p.m.—"The artillery was active in the Lagarina and Adige valleys," says today's war office statement.  
"The railway stations of Galliano and moving trains in the neighborhood were repeatedly hit. An ammunition depot was blown up and a fortified position destroyed in the Zuga area. On the remainder of the Trentino front bad weather interfered with our activity."  
"On the Colbrion Massif, in the Upper Glanon, enemy detachments attempted to attack the position which we captured on the preceding night after the explosion of our mine. They were repulsed with losses."  
"On the Julian front artillery duels took place in the Gorizia Basin."  
"Aerial reconnaissance made by both sides led to several air fights. Two hostile airplanes were brought down. One of our machines is missing."  
"In spite of a strong head wind one of our air squadrons succeeded in dropping bombs on the railway stations of Prebaccina and Volca. Drags in the Frigidio Vipacco Valley. The airmen were compelled to fly very low, because of the limited visibility of the targets, and came under heavy artillery and machine gun fire, but returned safely."

### ARGENTINIANS WANT WAR WITH GERMANY

Mobs in Buenos Ayres Attack German Legation and the Newspaper.

London, April 15, 12.35 p. m.—Mobs in Buenos Ayres demanding war with Germany attacked a German-owned newspaper office and fired on the German legation and consulate according to the Exchange Telegraph's Buenos Aires correspondent. The outbreaks were put down by the police, says the despatch, several persons being injured.

### BERLIN ADMITS A "RECESSION" OF THE ARRAS LINE

Berlin, via London, April 15.—Recession of the German line north of the Scarpe on the Arras battlefield is noted in today's army headquarters statement which asserts that only minor engagements accompanied the removal, the British suffering heavy losses in the fighting, as well as in massed attacks on the front from low lands of the Scarpe to the Arras-Cambrai railway, which are declared to have failed.  
"In the fighting the loss by the French, British and Americans is seventeen airplanes is reported. The text of the statement reads:  
"On the Arras battlefield, the result of the removal of our line north of the Scarpe only minor engagements occurred in which the enemy suffered heavy losses."  
"From the Scarpe lowlands to the Arras-Cambrai railway violent fighting occurred yesterday morning. British divisions in heavy massed attacks repeatedly suffered, and were repulsed. In addition to these British sacrifices a counter-thrust by our troops resulted in the capture of 300 prisoners and twenty machine guns."  
"In aerial activity in the Arras, the Aisne, the Champagne and the Vesge region the French, British and Americans lost seventeen machines during the air fighting. Two were shot down from the ground and two captive balloons were destroyed."  
"The artillery duel continues from Soissons to Rheims and in the Champagne."

### BRITISH PATROLS ENTERED LENS EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING, SAYS CORRESPONDENT OF LLOYD'S NEWS

Civic Population of French Mining Centre Evacuated City Friday and Germans Seized Food Supplies Contributed by American Relief Commission.

Fighting Very Severe all Along British Front—Germans Launched Vicious Counter-Attack but Were Beaten Back and Left 1500 Dead in Front of One British Position.

London, April 15.—British patrols entered Lens between four and five o'clock this morning according to a despatch received from a special correspondent of Lloyd's News Agency.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, British headquarters in France, via London.—The civic population of Lens was evacuated Friday. The Germans then seized three months' rations gathered in Lens by the American Relief Commission.

GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACK BEATEN.  
London, April 15.—Fifteen hundred German dead were left in front of the British positions after the unsuccessful attack, delivered early this morning by strong German forces along a six-mile front on the Bapaume-Cambrai road, according to the official report from Field Marshal Haig tonight. The British gained further ground in their advance upon both St. Quentin and Lens.

The text of the communication reads:  
"Fighting again today northwest of St. Quentin, we gained ground east and north of Grioucourt and captured some prisoners. We also further progressed in the neighborhood of Havrincourt Wood and east of Lievin, where our troops are approaching the outskirts of Lens."  
"Further particulars of the enemy attack this morning, outside the Bapaume-Cambrai road show that his losses were even heavier than at first reported. The attack was pressed with great determination, under a heavy fire from our infantry and artillery. In addition to the three hundred prisoners captured, fifteen hundred dead Germans were left in front of our positions."  
"Our airplanes carried out successful bombing raids yesterday. Valuable work was performed in co-operation with our artillery. Severe fighting occurred in the air throughout the day. Four German airplanes were brought down and eleven others were driven down by our machines. Ten of our airplanes are missing."

WITHIN FEW HUNDRED YARDS OF ST. QUENTIN.  
London, April 14.—British troops are now within a few hundred yards of the town of St. Quentin. During Saturday, says the official statement from British headquarters in France tonight, Field Marshal Haig's troops fought their way south and east of Fayet, one mile northwest of St. Quentin. The village of Grioucourt, one mile north of Fayet, was carried at the point of the bayonet. The Germans are reported to have retreated stubbornly and suffered many killed and wounded in addition to the losses of more than 400 prisoners.

LENS SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES.  
The mining centre of Lens is now virtually surrounded on three sides by the advancing British troops. The town of Lievin, southwest of and adjoining Lens, was captured this morning and the village of Cite St. Pierre, northwest of Lens also has been taken. Along the entire front from the Scarpe river to south of Loos, the British have pressed forward and have reached points two to three miles east of the Vimy Ridge.

Captured Grioucourt at Bayonet Point.  
"We made further progress during the day on a wide front north and south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road. In the course of a series of fierce encounters, all of which resulted in our favor, our troops fought their way forward during the day south and east of Fayet to within a few hundred yards of the town of St. Quentin and carried the village of Grioucourt at the point of the bayonet. The enemy resisted stubbornly, and in addition to the loss of over 400 prisoners, suffered heavily in killed and wounded."  
"An attempted hostile counter-attack was broken up by our artillery."  
"Yesterday and during the night of April 13 large quantities of explosives were dropped by our airplanes with good results on enemy stations, ammunition depots and airfields and hostile infantry and convoys were attacked successfully with machine gun fire. In the course of the fighting behind the enemy lines four German machines were brought down and six others were driven down. Twelve of our machines are missing."

Report is Premature.  
London, April 15.—The report published in a Sunday paper that the British had actually entered Lens is evidently premature, but the civilian population evacuated the town on Friday, and great fires are burning, showing that the Germans are destroying their stores preparatory to their departure, according to a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, while the British official communication announced that the British troops are on the outskirts of the town.  
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's principal object, however, in his advance on Lens is rather to turn La Bassée from the south, La Bassée and Lens forming the principal outworks of Lille, which is the key to the whole German position in Flanders, and since these two towns are in the hands of the British, Lille will be seriously threatened.

The German attack astride the Bapaume-Cambrai road today indicates the importance attached to defending the junction of the Hindenburg line to St. Quentin and La Fere with the

line hastily organized between Lens and Bullecourt, near Cambrai, when the German chief of staff, Von Hindenburg, realized that Vimy Ridge was seriously threatened. The British nearly broke through at Bullecourt, which is near this junction, last week, and although falling there, Field Marshal Haig transferred his attention to the town of St. Quentin, and danger for the Germans still exists, especially as according to the Associated Press correspondent, the Hindenburg line is still far from being properly organized.

The Reuter correspondent at British headquarters gives an interesting story of how the British officer studied beforehand a small model of Vimy Ridge, moulded by an ingenious officer out of plaster, indicating every natural feature, the trenches, railways, defenses, roads and streams, even the mine craters, prepared from aerial photographs and direct observation and all available knowledge that could be gained, and that knowledge thus gained proved of immense advantage when the attack was carried out.  
Snow Hindered Fighting.  
Rome, April 15 via London.—"In the Trentino snow and bad weather again hindered operations yesterday," says today's war office statement.  
"On the Carso on Friday night the enemy attempted a surprise attack on Hill 144. He was driven off and dispersed by our rifle and machine gun fire. The enemy afterwards carried out a violent bombardment which our batteries promptly silenced."

MEXICO IS NEUTRAL.  
Mexico City, April 15.—General Carranza in his address to the new congress tonight declared that Mexico would maintain a strict and rigorous neutrality in the world war. H. Von Eckardt, the German minister, was seated in a box with Austrian, Spanish and other diplomats.  
Henry P. Fletcher sat with the British minister.  
HEADS RUSSIAN ARMY.  
Bulletin—Petrograd, April 15, via London, April 15.—Gen. Michael V. Aleksei, has been definitely appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian army. He was appointed acting commander-in-chief a few weeks ago.

### BRITISH NOW THREATEN QUEANT, SWITCHPOINT OF ENTIRE GERMAN LINE; FIGHTING IS VERY HEAVY

Palpably Nervous and Jumpy Enemy is Desperately Resisting British Advance.

SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT SENDS THEM TO PANIC

Enemy Everywhere Beaten in Report from all Sections of Allied Advancing Lines.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, British headquarters in France, via London, April 15.—Fighting like men with their backs to the wall the Germans are making desperate resistance to the British advance, especially along the Hindenburg line from Queant to St. Quentin. This line has been broken between Queant and Arras, consequently the Germans are attempting to hold from Queant southward.

In the meantime Lens was being approached late today from three directions. The civilian population was evacuated by the Germans on Friday. No person was allowed more than thirty pounds of baggage. With the departure of the civilians the Germans seized three months' rations gathered at Lens by the American Relief Commission. Fires continued to glow in Lens today, while far away to the south area were seen within St. Quentin, towards which the British and French are immediately counter-attacking from there over a six-mile front. While suffering immediate reverses everywhere else they managed, by the concentration of artillery, to recapture Larnicourt, opposite Queant, which was taken from them several weeks ago. Their victory at this point was short lived, however, for the British immediately counter-attacked and re-took Larnicourt, with more than two hundred prisoners, and catching the retreating Germans under an intensive field gun fire, cut them to bits. Thus ended the first real "defensive offensive" the Germans have attempted since the battle of Arras began.

From one end of the British front to the other the Germans are palpably nervous and jumpy. Where they have been driven from their old positions they are feverishly digging at every opportunity, particularly at night. Each morning new airplanes are fighting. Most of the new trenches are merely emergency defenses, built at angles with a view to giving cover to the machine guns with which the Germans hope to delay the British advance until further work can make the rear defenses tenable.

It is now stated that no part of the Hindenburg line was expected to be completed until the end of April, despite the claims that the recent western retirement has been entirely according to German plans.

Where the Germans still hold their old positions to the north of Loos the slightest movement on the part of the British sends them into a panic. Flares and signal rockets of all colors spring from their trenches. Bombs are cast into No Man's Land; trench mortars set up a defensive barrage, and artillery help is frantically called for.

Some of the German fares and lights are most amusing, as well as spectacular. Their latest star shells have a parachute attachment, and hang suspended in the air for a long time, lighting up the surrounding country for several hundred yards. They break into three balls, and the British soldiers call them "paw brokers."

The Germans in the front line have long been worried by the inferiority of their artillery to that of the British.

word from Ottawa that her son Gunner Murray-Clifford Steeves had been severely wounded in shoulder and leg, April 15th.

Gunner Steeves went overseas October last with a draft of 65th Woodstock Battery.  
Memorial service for Private (Rev.) Arthur T. Jones, third of his, Jones, Sunbury, who was killed in action March 26, was held this afternoon in Sunbury Free Methodist church under the auspices of Mayor and council. Mayor Brown presided. Besides resolutions of sympathy with family adjectives were delivered by Rev. Jas. Crisp, R. M. Byron, C. O. Howlett.

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From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, British headquarters in France, via London, April 15.—An official statement issued today deals not only with the campaign, but with the efforts of German Socialists to negotiate with Russian Socialists a separate peace. The statement reads:

"On the western Roumanian and Carpathian fronts there have been rifle engagements and scattering reconnaissance. A German airplane was brought down in flames in the region of Boudelav, northeast of Vileiki; its occupants perished. Another was brought down in our lines east of Boudelav."  
"According to statements of an Austrian officer the German chancellor has sent German Socialists to Stockholm to meet Russian Socialists to negotiate a separate peace. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Germans have not published broadcast the news of the capture of the munition depots of Tcherwies (Cserwieszo-Kovel front) and that the usual manifestations have been omitted."  
"The German Socialist-Democrats, according to the same Austrian officer, are working solidly with the government, considering themselves Germans before everything."  
"Another Austrian deserter says that peace is being discussed more frequently than formerly in the Austrian army, and that everybody is hoping that internal disorders in Russia will help to bring about her destruction. All this proves that Germany is resorting to every possible ruse and will do her best to create dissensions among her enemies."

### FRANCE WILL DEMAND ALSACE AND LORRAINE AS HER PRICE OF PEACE

Editor of Paris Matin, Says Germany Can Make no Overtures Until this is Conceded.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, April 15.—France's peace terms will include the surrender by Germany of Alsace and Lorraine, according to Stephen Lauzanne, editor-in-chief of the Paris Matin, greatest of French newspapers, who addressed the Canadian Club here on Saturday.

"France will hear nothing of peace until Germany is prepared to give back to France the territory we lost in 1871," said Mr. Lauzanne. The statement was received with prolonged applause, the Duke of Devonshire leading the cheering. Mr. Lauzanne is in America on a diplomatic mission for the French government.

### MONCTON MAN IS SEVERELY WOUNDED

Memorial Service Held at Sunny Brae for Rev. Arthur T. Jones.

Special to The Standard.  
Moncton, April 15.—Mrs. Mary J. Steeves, Moncton, today received word from Ottawa that her son Gunner Murray-Clifford Steeves had been severely wounded in shoulder and leg, April 15th.

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