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BRITISH, IN MIGHTY THRUST, PERCE' SECOND LINE OF GERMAN DEFENCES

Second Phase of Offensive Launched At Daybreak

Men in Khaki Drive Enemy From Strongly Defended Positions; Capture of Longueval and Bazentin Le Grand Reported; Huns Forced Out of Trones Wood

London, July 14.—(11.19 a.m.)—The British troops at dawn today broke into German positions on a four mile front in the region north of the Somme and captured several strongly defended localities, says an official announcement of the War Office.

The British attack was delivered on the second system of the German defences. The statement adds that heavy fighting continues. It reads: This morning at dawn we attacked the enemy's second system of defences. Our troops have broken into hostile positions on a front of four miles and have captured several strongly defended localities. Heavy fighting continues.

A Reuter despatch, which comes from the war correspondents' headquarters, says that, following a heavy bombardment of the German second defence line, the British infantry attacked at dawn today and broke the second line over a front of 5,000 yards. The despatch adds: "Latest reports state that we captured the villages of Longueval and Bazentin-le-Grand, and cleared the enemy out of Trones woods. The weather is cloudy and is cool and favorable to our operations."

SECOND PHASE OF GREAT OFFENSIVE The British advance apparently constitutes the second phase of the great Anglo-French offensive in the neighborhood of the Somme river, which began on July 1 over a front of something more than twenty miles.

The reported capture of Longueval and Bazentin-le-Grand indicates that the British in today's assault advanced eastward or northward from Contalmaison or Montauban and that they apparently have brought their right wing up to a par with the French left and threatening a salient between Peronne, the immediate French objective, and Beaupre, the point at which the British movement is reported to be directed.

Longueval is about 3 1/2 miles east of Contalmaison. Bazentin-le-Grand is midway between those towns.

FROM ARMY HEADQUARTERS British Headquarters in France, July 14.—After their methodical day-by-day approach, commencing on the night of the 13th, the British advanced and after having brought up materials and guns, the British were ready for another big attack and at 3.30 o'clock this morning the infantry went forward. The assault seems to assure the taking of the villages of Longueval and Bazentin-le-Grand.

HAIG'S BLOW SWIFT AND SURE London, July 14.—At daylight this morning the British resuming the offensive north of the Somme, attacked the German second line defences, and according to the report of their commander General Sir Douglas Haig, succeeded in penetrating them on a front of four miles. Press despatches from the front add that the villages of Bazentin-le-Grand and Longueval, and the remaining portion of Trones woods were taken by the British.

While it was expected the British would not allow any great length of time to elapse before continuing their operations, it was hardly believed the second German line would be broken in one day of artillery preparation, for it was only on the day before yesterday that they completed capture of the first line in the region between Kardoucourt and Ouliers.

The direction of the attack, too, was something of a surprise for, instead of pushing on towards Comblis, General Haig chose to attack the flank of the Germans who faced Contalmaison and Ouliers and those who still occupy Pontiers.

The advance to Longueval and Bazentin-le-Grand, if accomplished, gives the British possession of other important roads running in various directions, which have been a great help to the Germans in supplying their army directly south of the Ancre River.

LONDON STIRRED. News of the British success was received in London with the greatest enthusiasm. It has given added weight to the request of the government workmen to forego the August holidays so that the army may be kept well supplied with munitions.

Supplies already on hand must be greater than was generally believed, else General Haig would not have been able to continue his offensive without an intermission.

There was no news this morning of important developments on the remainder of the western front, but at least accounts the French were preparing to resume their offensive south of the Somme, while the Germans were still hammering at the defences of Verdun.

The opinion is held in France, however, that continuation of the Somme battle will compel the Germans to slacken their efforts at Verdun, which now have been in progress nearly five months, especially as the French estimated that the Germans lost 12,000 men in counter attacks on Contalmaison.

The Russians have made no noticeable advance on any part of their front since they gained Stokod River, where the struggle continues desperately.

FRENCH HAND STAYED FOR WHILE Paris, July 14.—(New York Tribune cable.)—While the British are continuing their progress on the north, there has come a lull in the French attack in Picardy. Bad weather has made impossible the bringing up of the heavy guns and until the artillery has once more cleared the way the attack will not be renewed. Meanwhile the Germans have turned loose their seventh grand assault against Verdun, the only point where they have the initiative. They seem determined to emphasize their initiative, but the French high command cannot be drawn off by any attempts at a German diversion, and their attack will be met without any change in Joffre's plans.

ON THE RIVER The river steamer Ocean, which was scheduled to leave Indiantown yesterday afternoon, did not get away until nine o'clock this morning, owing to a crank pin breaking in one of the paddle wheels. The steamer arrived at Indiantown a little after noon today with a good-sized freight and a few passengers. The steamer brought a quantity of strawberries, which were sold for 10c a box by the crate.

TO BE BURIED IN TRURO William Byard, one of the three victims of the accident of the steamer Carquois, is survived by his wife, mother and father; three brothers, George, Silas and Sinclair, and four sisters, Carrie, Viola, Hazel and Geneva. The body will be taken to Truro, N. S., where interment will take place on Sunday.

IS AUSTRIA AT POINT WHERE SHE IS READY TO SUE FOR PEACE?

London, July 14.—The departure of the entire Russian council of ministers from Petrograd on their way to imperial field headquarters has been the cause of much speculation in the Russian capital, according to news despatches arriving here from Petrograd.

Only once before since the war began has a similar extraordinary council been held. At that time it was devoted to a consideration of important internal conditions and created a precedent in Russian history. Popular opinion ascribes the present council to the situation of Austria.

For the second time in the war Austria-Hungary has met with crushing defeat and there is a strong feeling in influential quarters that if Austria again throws out feelers for a separate peace they should be welcomed by the Allies.

Moreover, for the first time in the war, Germany is being hard pressed and this gives rise to the feeling that the Entente Allies must immediately lay down lines upon which they will agree as a basis for discussion of peace terms. The time for each member of the coalition to seek a common basis for future action is believed to be now, otherwise the Germans, say the despatches, will find the Entente as unprepared for peace as they were for war.

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COL. McAVITY OF GALANT TWENTY SIXTH HOME TONIGHT; BIG RECEPTION

Two Hundred Reach Halifax From Front

Fine Tribute Paid to Work of the French Canadians—Only 60 of Royal Montrealers Left

Halifax, N. S., July 14.—Two hundred and six officers and men who have been at the front returned to Halifax yesterday afternoon. Some of the men left for Montreal on a special train over the I. C. R. The party came across in charge of Captain Grover, with Captain Cartwright as medical officer. Among those who returned were Lieut. Col. McAvity of the 26th Battalion, St. John.

A large proportion of the men are invalided home and the remainder are on leave, among the latter being the commanding officer of the 26th. They will return in due time.

An interesting member of the party returning to Canada was a French reservist, who is going to his home in Winnipeg. All the wounded and sick who came back belonging to the maritime provinces were sent to hospital. One of the wounded soldiers wears a false face to conceal his injuries. The false face was made by a noted sculptor.

The brilliant part played by the members of the first and second Canadian expeditionary forces was related to a correspondent. Of those returned some were in the trenches until the 9th last month, others have been in hospital at Shorncliffe recovering from wounds and disabilities. Included among the returned were Colonel Switz, Major Verreault and Captain F. J. Roberts, Montreal, and several French-Canadian Privates.

One of the officers warmly praised the work of the 14th Royal Montreal Regiment composed of French-Canadian soldiers who distinguished themselves at the battle of Hooge. The circumstances in connection with their gallantry were described by the officers, who said the Germans had by overwhelmingly large numbers driven the British troops out of some trenches and the Royal Montreal Regiment were ordered to retake them. This they did, despite the terrific fire of the enemy who had firmly established themselves.

The Montreal men went forward as if on parade and recaptured the lost trenches. The ground was strewn with the bodies of the brave Montreal battalion, which were buried under heavy fire. When the Montreal battalion had reached the last trench they had been ordered to retake, their ranks were greatly reinforced by other Canadians.

"I will never forget the gallantry displayed by the officers and men of the battalion," said one of the returned officers. "Their work was splendid and they certainly made a name for themselves and for Canada which will live."

There are now only about sixty men left of the Royal Montreal battalion and there are practically none of those now at the front, those surviving being either in hospital in London or invalided home.

Corporal Smith is one of those who arrived here last night, being invalided home. He is suffering from shell shock and still shows the effect of it although he has been in hospital for some time at Shorncliffe. He was at the front for more than a year and was slightly wounded with shrapnel. Corp. Smith enlisted at Toronto in the first Eaton Battery. There were 260 members in this battery and it has been practically decimated, only about seven remaining.

The following officers were landed. Many of them proceeded immediately to their western homes: Capt. Bowart, Capt. Coombe, C.A.M.C.; Capt. Boucher, C.A.M.C.; Capt. C. B. Price and Mrs. Price, Montreal; Capt. Kelly, Lieut. Blair, G. Clark, Calgary, Alta.; W. E. Bull, Winnipeg; J. S. Brown, Toronto; B. A. Brown, Sinclair, Toronto; Beck, A. J. Roberts, McPherson, R. H. Harburn, Lt. Col. McAvity, St. John; Major Gow, Major Benwell, Major Croft, Major White, Major Wilson, Major J. J. Decham, Capt. Crombie, Lieut. H. H. Sewell, Fenton, Dunfield, Pym, H. W. B. Locke, Capt. Duff, Capt. O'Flynn.

The British Hospitals There were none so badly injured that they could not walk down the gang plank without assistance, except a few on crutches and few of them, aside from slight limping, showed signs of wounds. Many of them were suffering from shell shock. A few had lost an eye, others showed no outward sign at all of the injuries that had procured them either discharge or a few weeks of well earned rest at home.

Among them were several well-known Nova Scotian officers. These latter were Major Roger Anderson, son of Willoughby Anderson of Halifax, accompanied by his wife; Captain Morgan of Bear River, Lieut. E. J. Lawson, Lieut. C. M. Mosher of Mahomet, Lieut. George E. Roberts and wife of Halifax.

The splendid appearance in which the men appeared after their experience was commented upon by everyone. It was strong evidence of the care which our wounded have been given in the British hospitals. One officer, when asked about the place, said: "The hospitals are wonderful. No nation on earth can compare with the British in that regard."

LLOYD GEORGE'S FIRST ORDER AS MINISTER OF WAR London, July 14.—(New York Times cable)—The first army order bearing Lloyd George's signature was published yesterday. It quotes a royal warrant dated March 30, 1908, which defined what military bodies should be deemed to be corps and substituting a new schedule of infantry and cavalry regiments and other branches of service.

At a conference of the representatives of the returned soldiers reception committee with Commissioner McLellan, which was held at noon today, it was decided that the reception to Lieut-Colonel McAvity this evening be purely a citizens' reception, aside from a brief address of welcome to be extended by Commissioner McLellan. The citizens are asked that, after checking the colonial on his appearance from the station, they remain quiet until after the address is finished. After the procession falls into line they are asked to demonstrate their feelings to the fullest extent.

The train will arrive at 8.30 o'clock and provision is to be made for the formation of a hollow square, composed of firemen, policemen, members of the salvage corps, returned heroes formerly attached to the 26th battalion and other war veterans, a detachment from the artillery unit on Partridge Island, employees of McLean Holt & Co., T. McAvity & Sons, the St. John Power Boat Club members and members of the Elks.

All citizens are welcome to fall into line with the procession, after positions have been allotted to those mentioned. The procession will proceed through the principal streets escorting Colonel McAvity to his home in Hasen street.

The route of the procession will be as follows: From I. C. R. depot along Mill, Dock, King, Charlotte, Coburg and Garden streets to Hasen street to the Colonel's home.

The order of the procession will be as follows: Mounted police. Police on foot. Commissioners' car. Cars with reception committee. City Cornet Band. Firemen. Lieut-Colonel McAvity's car. Car with returned members of 26th. Veterans' Association on foot. (Continued on page 2, fifth column)

German Battleships Crippled In Jutland Fight London, July 14.—(New York World cable)—The Daily News' Amsterdam correspondent learns that the German warships engaged in the Jutland battle five dreadnought battleships—the Koenig, Grosser Kurfuers, Markgraf, Kaiser and Kaiserin; four battle cruisers, the Derflinger, Seydlitz, Moltke and Von Der Tann, two older battleships—the Hessen and Rheinland, and four small cruisers are now in German shipyards undergoing repairs. The Seydlitz, he says, which had all her superstructure blown away, sank in shallow water while being towed to harbor, but has since been salvaged. The other ships were also severely damaged.

BITTEN NEARLY IN TWO BY SHARK

New York, July 14.—The body of Lester Stillwell was found in Matawan Creek today about 200 feet west of the spot where it disappeared after being attacked by a shark. It had been bitten nearly in two above the waistline.

BRITISH FIND THE GERMAN RESISTANCE IS MUCH WEAKER

On the British front, July 14.—Accounts received at this early hour indicate the German resistance is much weaker than on the first day. The struggle is continuing in Bazentin-le-Petit woods, where the Germans still hold out, and in the woods beyond Longueval.

SUMMER RESIDENCE OF GREEK KING BURNED

London, July 14.—The royal chateau at Tatol, Greece, occupied as the summer residence of King Constantine, has been destroyed by fire, says a Reuter despatch from Athens. The king, Queen Sophie and members of the royal family escaped and took refuge with Prince Nicholas at his home in Kessapa.

The fire started in the forest near the chateau and spread to that building and to the adjoining barracks of the rural police, which also were destroyed. Several lives, including those of officers, were lost in the burning of the barracks.

DECISIVE DAYS OF WAR IS VIEW OF GERMAN WRITER

London, July 14.—Major Morait, in the Berliner Tageblatt expresses the opinion that the coming days will be decisive of the issue of the whole war.

SALE CONTINUES. The balance of the stock of A. C. Smith & Company was sold at auction for the benefit of their creditors yesterday afternoon. The effects included the office fittings and equipment, quantities of butter, hay, straw, horses, vehicles, harness, stable equipment and other assets. Good prices were obtained by the auctioneer, F. L. Potts.

Phelps and Phenomenon WEATHER REPORT Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

Fine Maritime provinces probabilities—Fine tomorrow, not much change in temperature. New England—Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday; moderate northeast winds.

COUNTY COUNCIL The finance committee of the Municipal Council is meeting this afternoon in preparation for the quarterly meeting of the council next Tuesday.

ONE RECRUIT F. J. Pickett of Hillsdale, Kings county, signed on this morning at the recruiting office in Prince William street.

FIELD AMBULANCE TRAIN. The field ambulance train has now a total strength of about twenty-five men. Four sergeants have been taken on the strength, including Sergeants A. B. McNeil, formerly of the Military Hospital in Fredericton, C. L. Mofford, returned soldier of the Canadian Scottish, 16th Battalion; D. W. Shaw, a South African veteran, and Frank Revoort of the 140th. Corporal E. G. Ross and Private C. F. Wetmore, both of the military hospital staff in St. James street, have been attached to the depot. Private Wetmore was formerly a messenger in the Canadian customs.

ON THE RIVER The river steamer Ocean, which was scheduled to leave Indiantown yesterday afternoon, did not get away until nine o'clock this morning, owing to a crank pin breaking in one of the paddle wheels. The steamer arrived at Indiantown a little after noon today with a good-sized freight and a few passengers. The steamer brought a quantity of strawberries, which were sold for 10c a box by the crate.

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