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Italians Join Allies
On Western Front

British Line Holds Firmly
For Another Day

Vigorous Assaults by Germans Are All
Repulsed—French Reinforcements
Are Splendidly Seasoned Fighting Men

That Italians already are on the fighting line with the Allies on the west is an interesting feature of the news today. Although the great German thrust launched last week against the British lines from Givenchy to Ypres has bent back the British front badly in this entire area, the offensive here stands checked today and in imminent danger of utter failure so far as the larger results aimed at are concerned.

Field Marshal Haig's troops yesterday had to meet one of the severest tests yet put upon them in withstanding a German effort to broaden out the salient created before the early impetus of the German drive in the Lys battlefield was spent. They came through the ordeal with colors flying and completely stopped the German onrush.

From Givenchy to St. Venant, an eleven mile sector on the southerly side of the salient, German troops were hurled in masses on the British positions in an effort to break through to the southwest behind Bethune and compel the British to fall back from Givenchy and along the front southward towards Vimy Ridge and Arras.

The defensive line held firm, despite repeated desperate assaults, which cost the Germans enormous losses, and last night the battle died down to an artillery duel. Correspondents at the front declare the British front is now more secure than it has been for days.

Further efforts, probably of an equally determined nature, may be expected from the Germans who are in too greatly exposed a position from enfilading gunfire in their narrow salient to rest comfortably where they are. Indeed, they resumed their attacks last night in the Mount Kemmel region on the northern side of the battlefield, southwest of Ypres, where they are finding the British firmly installed on the dominating heights. The assaults, like the preceding ones, were failures.

On the Somme battle front the French have held to their gains of yesterday in the region of Castel.

LINE STILL HOLDS

London, April 19.—The Germans were completely repulsed in the attack they launched yesterday around Givenchy, on the southern side of the Lys battle front. The war office so announced today. When the assaults ceased, after heavy losses, the enemy had been able to secure only a limited footing at one or two points of the more advanced British defences.

Six German divisions, it has been determined, were engaged in the unsuccessful attack in the Givenchy-St. Venant sector. The enemy launched further attacks last night south of Kemmel. These were broken up by the British artillery and machine gun fire.

Enemy attacks on the British lines in the northern part of the Lys battle front, south of Kemmel, were successfully repulsed. There was no change in the situation along the entire British front during the night, which passed in comparative quiet, with the exception of activity by the artillery on both sides.

The attacks against the line in the Kemmel sector, the repulse of which was reported today, took place yesterday morning. In minor enterprises at various points during the night the British captured a few prisoners and some machine guns.

ITALIANS TO FRANCE

Rome, April 19.—Premier Orlando announced in the chamber of deputies yesterday that Italian troops would be dispatched to the battlefield in France. The announcement, which was received with a storm of applause, was as follows:

"Italy, which follows with admiration the heroic efforts of the Anglo-French troops on the western front, could not remain absent from the battlefields of France. She wishes to bring to her Allies tangible proof of solidarity and very soon the colors of Italian regiments will fly over the fields of Picardy with those of the French, British, Americans, Belgian and Portuguese, thus sealing the union which exists between the Allied peoples and governments."

Washington, April 19.—Italian regiments already are in France and form the right wing of the Allied armies. The Italian embassy announced this today.

French Report

Paris, April 19.—"There was a rather violent bombardment by both the opposing armies along the front from Castel to Mally-Rainval. During the night the French reduced certain machine gun nests on the front of the attack yesterday. The number of prisoners taken by us has reached 650, of whom twenty are officers."

"North of Bezonaux (Verdun front) we carried out a successful raid and brought back prisoners. Elsewhere on the front there was intermittent cannonading."

MORE SECURE THAN FOR DAYS

London, April 19.—(via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The change of the front of the German attack to the region between Givenchy and east of Robecq found no weak spot in the British resistance and the close of yesterday's fighting found the British line still intact. There was only one point in the new battle area where the enemy gained anything, viz., opposite the hill of Hignes, where the enemy succeeded in bridging La Basse Canal, but the only Germans who crossed came as prisoners.

This new German attack in the direction of Bethune is obviously intended to protect his flanks if he wishes to live farther northward. The enemy is trying to secure La Basse Canal with the object of safeguarding his troops around Baillet and simultaneously immobilizing the British in the French coal field near Bethune.

The French Report

Generally speaking, the British battle line is more secure than it has been for days, justifying the belief that the enemy may be held in their present positions. The arrival of the French sup-

RHEIMS, ON
FIRE FOR WEEK,
IS REDUCED TO
PILE OF RUINS

Flames Visible to Aviators 70
Miles Away—Hundred Thou-
sand Shells Fall Into City

Paris, April 19.—Rheims, which has been on fire for a week, is now nothing but a great pile of smoking ruins. During the week the Germans have fired more than 100,000 shells into the heart of the city. Flames from burning buildings can be seen by aviators sixty and seventy miles away.

Ancient buildings in the Place Royale and the market place and the Musicians' House, which dates from the sixteenth century, have been reduced to dust and ashes.

The vaulting of the famous Rheims cathedral is falling stone by stone and soon there will be nothing left but the west front and the pillars.

Notwithstanding the terrible bombardment forty Paris firemen are still in the city working to save the furniture and portable effects of the inhabitants. Some of them have lost their lives. With the Paris firemen some local firemen, one of whom, Sergt. Eloi, has been on duty in Rheims since the outbreak of the war and has been wounded fourteen times.

Rheims before the war was a city of more than 100,000 souls. The population until a few months ago was less than 18,000, but these persons lived in dugouts or in cellars and the city was virtually dead.

NOT ALL FRESH
TROOPS NOW

Germans Using Men Who Already
Had Share in Offensive—Fearful
Task to Man British De-
fences Won

With the British Army in France, April 18.—(By the Associated Press)—The Germans have been bringing up fresh divisions to the front, but the most promising sign is that they are beginning to use a second time the troops which had such hard fighting in the early days of the campaign.

In conversation with German prisoners and in captured documents and letters continual reference is made to the great casualties ever since the Germans began the offensive.

The Germans are continuing to push forward cautiously into the positions the British have evacuated east of Ypres, and the defending artillery has been playing havoc with the advancing troops. The Germans did not actually recapture the positions of the Paschendaele defences for many hours after the withdrawal was completed.

The country from which the British hauled back is an awful mud hole and it will take the enemy a long time to man the new positions and get his artillery forward through the muck.

NORTHCLIFFE PRESS
DOES NOT THINK MUCH
OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN

AGAIN ADVISE PURCHASE
OF NEXT WINTER'S COAL

Washington, April 19.—War demands for coal as the year advances may require still further restrictions of the consumers' freedom to choose coal. This announcement was made by the fuel administration last night because of reports that consumers in some sections are withholding their orders in the expectation that the zone system of distribution may be altered in such a manner as to broaden their sources of supply.

"Any modification of the zoning plan that may be made," said the announcement, "will be in the direction of further restriction rather than toward enlarging sources of supply. There should therefore be no further delay on the part of coal dealers and consumers in placing their orders for their supply."

BRITISH SHIP LOSSES
AND SHIP BUILDING

London, April 19.—According to a statement issued officially last night the average of monthly losses of British ships in 1917 was \$3,000,000 tons. For the quarter ended March 31, claims of a continuance of the drop in the rate of losses will be found fully justified. Arrangements have been made for a supply of steel to give the output aimed at and at present the shipyards are in every case fully supplied with this material.

Tom Gibbons Wins.
Scranton, Pa., April 19.—Tom Gibbons of St. Paul, Minn., last night won a points over Clay Turner, an Indian boxer. The bout went the full ten rounds.



EXPENSIVE REAL ESTATE.—Record, Philadelphia.

Ringing Call To
Canadian Troops

Lieut. General Currie Bids Them Advance
or Fall Where They Stand,
Facing Enemy

Ottawa, April 19.—In anticipation of a tremendous assault against the Canadian lines, Lieut. General Sir Arthur W. Currie, K. C. B., K. C. M. G., commanding the Canadian corps, issued a special order on March 27 and exhorted all ranks to advance or fall where they stood facing the enemy. He felt that the Canadians would repeat the victories of the past. A copy of the order has been received by an Ottawa woman from relative overseas. It reads as follows:

"In an endeavor to gain an immediate decision the enemy has gathered all his forces and struck a mighty blow at the British army. Overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers the British divisions in the line between the Scarpe and the Oise have fallen back fighting hard, steady and undismayed. Measures have been taken successfully to meet the German onslaught. The French have gathered a powerful army commanded by a most able and trusted leader and this army is now moving swiftly to our help. Fresh British divisions are being thrown in. The Canadians are soon to be engaged. Our motor machine gun brigade has already played a most gallant part and once again covered itself with glory."

"Looking back with pride on the unbroken record of your glorious achievements, asking you to realize that today the fate of the British Empire hangs in the balance, I place my trust in the Canadian corps, knowing that where Canadians are engaged, there can be no giving away. Under the orders of your devoted officers in the coming battle, you will advance or fall where you stand facing the enemy."

"To those who fall I say: 'You will not die but step into immortality. Your mothers will not lament your fate but will be proud to have borne such sons. Your names will be forever revered for your grateful country and God will take you into Himself.'"

"I command you and I trust you to fight as you have ever fought, with all your strength, with all your determination, with all your tranquil valor. On many a hard fought field of battle you have overcome this enemy and with God's help you shall achieve victory once more."

"A. W. CURRIE,
Lieut. General,
Commanding Canadian Corps."

NO REGRET FOR
CAVELL MURDER

German Crown Princess Refuses
Release of Girl Friend Sentenced
to Prison at Same Time

Geneva, April 19.—When Edith Cavell was executed in Belgium by the Germans, a girl friend, Julia Wysis, aged twenty, of Geneva, was sentenced to twenty-five years penal servitude for the same offence. She is now in a Prussian prison.

A petition for a pardon, signed by 3,000 women of Geneva, was sent to the crown princess of Germany nearly a year ago. A cold, almost brutal, reply signed by Baron Von Stuppel, secretary to the crown princess, has been received. It states briefly that the petition cannot be taken into consideration by the crown princess.

ROUND UP BOYS WHO
START GRASS FIRES.

The North End police have been actively engaged during the last few days rounding up boys who have been setting grass fires. As a result seven will appear in the juvenile court tomorrow morning. These boys and others, it is said, have started fires on Port Howe hill, in the grass below Newman Brook bridge and out Douglas avenue and owing to the high winds there is danger of a conflagration. The North End fire department have had to respond to several still alarms during the last few days to extinguish fires set by boys.

WEATHER
REPORT

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

Synopsis.—The low pressure which was over the Great Lakes and middle states yesterday has entirely disappeared and the high area from the north now dominates the weather from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The temperature is low in all the provinces except Alberta and British Columbia.

Forecasts
Lakes and Georgian Bay—Moderate north and northeast winds, fair and cool; Saturday, fair with a little higher temperature.
Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence—Moderate north and northeast winds, fair and cool; Saturday, fair with a little higher temperature.
Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Fresh north and northwest winds, fair and cool today and Saturday.

Fair and Cold
Maritime—Moderate to fresh north winds, fair and cool today and on Saturday.
Superior—Moderate winds, fair and cool today and on Saturday.
Manitoba and Saskatchewan—Fair today and Saturday, with a little higher temperature.
Alberta—Fine and mild today and on Saturday.
New England—Fair and continued tonight and Saturday, moderate northwest to north winds.

Assessment Bill
Is Recommended

THEY RESOLVE
ON RESISTANCE
TO CONSCRIPTION

Conference Held in Dublin—Irish
Bishops Pass Similar Resolution

London, April 19.—Conference of Irish Nationalists, Sinn Feiners, O'Brienites and Laborites, held in Dublin under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor yesterday, unanimously passed a resolution declaring their determination to resist conscription. The resolution was similar to the one adopted by the Irish bishops at Maynooth earlier in the day. The conference then adjourned until Friday. The bishops declared their conscription was being forced on Ireland, and that it was an oppressive and inhuman law which the Irish people had the right to resist "by all means consonant with the law of God."

The Irish clergy was directed to announce days for receiving contributions of money, and parish meetings will be held on next Sunday to gain adherents to the resolution.

The authorities in Ireland are taking steps to deal with the situation, which, to say the least, is threatening.

Toronto, April 19.—The Telegraph's Belfast correspondent says: "Kerry police are searching for participants in an attack on the constabulary barracks, in which one Sinn Feiner was killed and another badly wounded. Twenty three memorial tombstones in Ballinacorney churchyard in Wicklow were maliciously destroyed on Sunday night. The greatest indignation prevails among Ulster Unionists."

London, April 19.—The labor council at Sydney, New South Wales, has passed a resolution to cable Premier Lloyd George requesting the British government to reconsider its decision to apply conscription to Ireland. The conscription measure is considered unjust and it is felt it would cause grave complications.

One of the most important changes made today was the reduction in the rate for motion picture theatres. For theatres whose net earnings are not more than five per cent. of the gross earnings, the rate will be three-quarters of one per cent. on the total gross receipts, instead of one per cent. as at first provided. For all others the rate shall be one per cent. instead of one and one-quarter and one and three-quarters as formerly provided. It is probable that a sub-section will be added when the bill is before the house to provide specifically for the elimination of the city license fee, according to understanding.

A section relating to the assessment of steam railways, virtually under the C. P. R., was amended by the addition of a clause as follows:

"Nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to abrogate the exemptions agreed to by the city and confirmed by acts (as named, referring chiefly to the grain elevators)."

A section was added to provide that the act shall go into effect on November 1, 1918.

A Dalhousie bill relating to exemptions for the P. H. Lumber Co. was recommended with amendments, limiting the exemptions to the present site and the plant on it. A section giving the council general power to make exemptions was eliminated.

Another Dalhousie bill authorizing the issue of debentures also was recommended.

BETTER WAR NEWS
ENCOURAGES TRADERS
IN WALL STREET.

New York, April 19.—(Wall street)—Encouraged by the more hopeful aspects of the war situation, traders continued at the outset of today's stock market to press their advantage of the previous session. In this movement they were aided by further short covering and indications of public participation. United States Steel again led the rise in volume of transactions, gaining a point.

Other equities, also, showed a similar advance. Liberty bonds displayed firm tendencies.

Non Report.
The market was almost buoyant during the morning sales of the first hour along exceeding many recent full sessions. Despite considerable profit taking, early gains were increased, but talks, except Reading, which rose 1/8 and St. Paul preferred at 1/8, shared only slightly in the advance. U. S. Steel continued to guide the movement, gaining 1 1/2 points, while active equipments, motors and oils ranged one to three points over yesterday. Pools were active in minor specialties, mostly all at substantial gains.

FUEL CONTROLLER
HAS COST \$168,334

Ottawa, April 19.—A return tabled in parliament yesterday shows that the total cost of the administration of the office of the fuel controller throughout Canada has been \$168,334. The employees number 101.

SAYS WE SHOULD EAT NO
WHEAT BREAD AT ALL

Halifax, April 19.—Senator Everett Colby of New Jersey, speaking in Halifax yesterday, said no one should touch a mouthful of wheat bread till the shortage of the Allies in Europe passes.

"There will be famine overseas in nine months," he added, "if America does not send the food needed. When people in this country eat white bread they in effect stab our soldiers in the back. He said no pork or bacon should be used."

WOMEN IN ARMY IN
STATE OF NEW YORK.

Albany, N. Y., April 19.—Women are to be allowed to join the military forces of the state, becoming commissioned officers and members of the ambulance corps of the home defence reserve.