

POOR DOCUMENT

MC 235

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B. TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917

British Penetrate Far Into German Lines in New Advance

With the British Armies in France, April 9, via London—The war on the western front, which has been moving more rapidly in the past five weeks, broke into full swing today. Widening their attacks, which they have been directing against the retreating Germans in the sector of the Somme, the British struck still further north, and in a series of assaults on a broad front, with Arras more or less the pivotal point, they drove the Germans from scores of important positions, penetrating far into the German lines and inflicting heavy casualties.

A visit to corps headquarters this afternoon indicated that the number of prisoners taken in the past twelve hours will exceed five thousand. The barbed wire "cages" or compounds built to receive prisoners which were expected to be taken were overcrowded long before noon, although the principal attack did not begin until shortly after dawn.

HEAVIEST FIGHTING SOUTHEAST OF ARRAS.

The heaviest fighting today developed along a line a few miles southeast of Arras, in the northerly direction to the neighborhood of Lens, but the action extended far in the direction of St. Quentin. In the territory captured today was the famous Vimy Ridge, which had been fought over time and time again ever since the war was ten months old.

The French had fought desperately and valiantly in an endeavor to wrest this vantage ground from the Germans, the battles costing both belligerent untold casualties. Back of the northern end of Vimy Ridge lie the principal coal fields of France, which are still in German hands.

The fighting on Vimy Ridge was carried out by the Canadians, who had retained a footing on the ridge all winter, but always higher up was the enemy. On either side of the Canadians were English and Scottish battalions, and in today's battle there was glory enough for all. The irrepressible "tanks" also shared in the honors of the successful assault.

One position captured to the northeast of Arras was a sort of labyrinth of trenches enmeshed in multiple bands of wire, called "The Harp," because of its shape. Prisoners had proclaimed this strong point practically unassailable, but, sweeping over it today, the British took within it nearly a thousand prisoners, and they captured also during the day three German battalion commanders, who compare in rank with colonel in the British army. The Canadians took two thousand prisoners.

HUNS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

It was said everywhere along the line that the Germans appeared to have been taken by surprise, and only in a few instances did they put up a strong fight. One reason for this was that they had been fairly dazed by the British artillery fire of the past ten days.

The French Official.

Paris, April 9.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"From the Somme to the Aisne our artillery energetically bombarded the German positions. The enemy countered, particularly north of the Aisne and on the town of Rheims, which suffered an intense bombardment, several civilians being killed.

"In the Parroy Forest our grenade-throwers repulsed an enemy attempt against one of our advanced posts. "Belgian communication: The artillery activity on both sides was less powerful than on the preceding days. It was localized in the region east of Ranscapelle.

"Eastern theatre: April 8, cannonading took place in the region of Isernia Stena and between the lakes, and there was rifle and machine gun firing in the Italian sector. A German airplane was brought down south of Lake Doiran, two officers and one mechanic being made prisoners."

SWISS CONSULATE NOW REPRESENTS GERMANY

United States Consul Henry S. Culver has turned the care of German interests in this section of the dominion over to the Swiss consul general at Montreal. Mr. Culver formerly looked out for German and Austrian interests here, and in some sections of Nova Scotia, but with the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, which came just a short time before the declaration of war, Mr. Culver was notified by the state department at Washington to turn such affairs as might be under his charge over to the Swiss representative. Some thirty odd German prisoners of war at Amherst were previously in a measure watched over through the local consulate.

CANADIANS CARRY STRONGEST POSITION ON WESTERN FRONT

Vimy Ridge Captured in Half Hour After Attack Was Launched — Canadians Take Many Prisoners And Suffer Surprisingly Few Casualties

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, April 9.—The crest of the Vimy Ridge has been carried. The strongest defensive position of the enemy on the western front has been captured by the army of Sir Douglas Haig, and the Canadian corps was given the place of honor in the great event, being strongly supported by some of the most famous of the British formations. The attack was preceded by a bombardment which continued for several days, and in which guns of the heaviest calibre, formerly used on only the biggest battleships, took part. The results, as revealed by aerial observation, were a repetition of the battle of the Somme, aeroplanes, flying low, could find only shapeless masses of churned up earth where the enemy's first line had been.

By Saturday afternoon Thelus, the chief village held by the enemy on the ridge and lying due east of Neuville-St. Vaast, was pounded out of all recognition, only two houses remaining. Prisoners taken told of heavy enemy losses. Even in deep dugouts, where the Germans had hoped to be reasonably safe in that rain of death, no safety was to be

found anywhere. In a desperate attempt to blind the eyes of the attacking army, the Germans on Saturday endeavored to destroy our observation balloons. Saturday night our guns continued the work of devastation under conditions which made a spectacle that was majestic and awe-inspiring. A full moon in the east lit up the countryside with mellow beams on the horizon, while the flash of the guns made a continuous play like that of the northern lights in the dominion, or distant sheet lightning. This was sharply broken now and again by a column of reddish-yellow flame, where on the ridge high explosives were bursting.

Cannonade on Easter. The guns, with tireless energy, continued the cannonade throughout Easter Sunday. On Monday morning came the supreme moment, that in which our infantry was called upon to go out and reap the fruit of months of preparation. They had endured, unwaveringly, the answering fire of the enemy, which, however, was not comparable to ours. Some, impatient to be at the fore, had gone out on small wars of their own, and it is recorded that in one of the individual encounters in "No Man's Land," a Canadian meeting a German, pursued him after emptying his revolver ineffectively at him. The Canadian cast about for some other weapon. The only one within reach was his steel helmet, and with the sharp edge of that he killed the armed German.

Objective Gained in Half Hour. Within half an hour after the first German "S. O. S." rocket had been sent up, indicating a surprise attack, our objective was attained, with slight loss. The tanks which accompanied our advancing infantry had little to do, but were seen in action later, near the crest of the ridge, on

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the extreme northern end of the line at a point east of Souchez, where much fierce fighting took place in 1915 when thousands of men fell.

On the southern end of the Canadian front the Germans yielded ground more readily than in the north. Many prisoners were taken, and as for Thelus, which had been strongly held before, our guns hammered it to pieces. It did not long hold out. By 12.34, seven hours after the battle began, no organized body of the enemy remained on Vimy Ridge, save the nest of concealed machine gun sections on Hill 145.

Casualties Light. Of the casualties it can only be said at this moment that they were surprisingly light, especially in view of the importance of the ground. The prisoners taken on the Canadian part of the front probably total close to two thousand. The British troops on the adjacent part of the front captured some thousands of the enemy. Our men were splendid, and proud that they have been counted worthy to furnish a striking force so important an operation as the recapture of Vimy Ridge.

Returning From Western Front

A grizzled old veteran who has perspired in the heat of a South African campaign and shivered in the mud and slush of Flanders, is Sergeant-Major John W. Johnston, of Halifax, of the 25th Nova Scotia battalion, who arrived in the city yesterday.

Sergeant-Major Johnston has something to show for his campaigning, for he is the proud possessor of the king's medal, the queen's medal, the military medal, and the distinguished conduct medal. This benedicted and herbiboned soldier went across with the 25th Nova Scotia battalion. Prior to this war he had served in South Africa with an imperial unit of engineers. In that war he received the king's and queen's medals.

He went overseas as a company sergeant-major in the 25th battalion and was through all the heavy fighting with that unit. His platoon was commanded by Lieut. Howard Johnston, a well known maritime province newspaper man, who was killed during the Courcoullette "show." In speaking of Lieutenant Johnston he said: "He was one of the finest officers we had. His newspaper training naturally made him desire to gain full possession of all the facts necessary to successfully carry on an attack and he secured those. I remember when the first attack was made by the 25th, Colonel Stanley Johnston was left behind with other officers and men to form a nucleus in case we were wiped out, and he did not permit himself to be a child because he was not permitted to lead his platoon over into the attack. But his turn came. A few days later the colonel was shot through the hand before an attack, and Lieut. Johnston was given charge of the first wave and I can see him yet as he stood in the front line, with his long string of ribbons which bedecked the left breast of his tunic. He paid a high tribute to Lieut. Colonel Stanley Johnston, who went overseas as a company commander with the 25th.

Major Gerald Birks, of Montreal, who has charge of overseas Y. M. C. A. work and who is also well known in St. John, arrived in the city yesterday from England. He said that the magnitude of the work was constantly increasing and that the needs of the institutions were greater than ever. He and Captain Cameron will conduct a big campaign in Canada before returning to the front. Crossed Pond Many Times.

Although she has spent eighteen months sailing to and fro through the submarine district, making twenty-three trips in all, Nursing Sister Mrs. G. E. Burns spends no time worrying about the possibilities involved in her duties in the transport service. She has not yet seen a submarine and is almost willing to risk the danger for the sake of satisfying her curiosity as to their appearance. However, she will not worry if she misses the opportunity. Mrs. Burns, who is a native of Toronto and a graduate of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, has a son in France and is anxious to be transferred to the front to be nearer him.

Brazil Near War. Washington, April 9.—In Latin-American diplomatic quarters here it was said late today that Dr. Muller's refusal to receive the German minister to Brazil undoubtedly meant that the government definitely had decided to sever diplomatic relations with Germany.

Spain Neutral. Madrid, April 9, via Paris.—The official journal today published a decree declaring the neutrality of Spain in the war between the United States and Germany.

Lieutenant George R. McCord of Sackville, who went over in the first contingent with the 12th battalion, was transferred to the Princess Patricia's and won his commission on the field, was among the officers who returned yesterday.

UNITED STATES' PLANS FOR HELPING ALLIED NATIONS

Commercial Co-operation So That Republic Will Assist in Drawing Tighter Blockade Against Germany.

Washington, April 9.—America's commercial relations with the Allies and with the central powers are being studied by a government committee to determine whether trade legislation is made necessary by the declaration of war with Germany. Britain's trading-with-the-enemy act, and the Allies' trade co-operation measures are under investigation.

Although no move has been made yet toward commercial co-operation with the Allies, there is every reason to believe the United States will decide to co-operate as fully in trade matters as in military affairs. The government probably immediately will invite the new commercial committee from the Allies to visit Washington. America's declaration of war has changed the whole fabric of trade relations of this country. The United States will aid Britain, too, in rationing the northern European neutrals, through which country heretofore vast amount of supplies has reached Germany from the United States. Now it is as much to the interest of the United States as the Allies to see that neutral countries contiguous to Germany receive from shippers only enough supplies to meet their own immediate needs. One of Britain's first acts now probably will be to make inoperative its black list decree, insofar as it applies to the United States.

AN INVITATION TO WOMEN

Women are invited to visit the laboratory of the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. at Lynn, Mass., and see for themselves with what accuracy, skill and cleanliness this wonderful remedy for women's ailments is prepared. Over 850,000 pounds of roots and herbs are used annually in making this famous medicine. The great bins of herbs, the huge tanks filled with the medicine ready to be bottled, and the bottling room where it is put up and labelled for the market, cannot help but impress them with the reliability of this good, old-fashioned root and herb remedy, which for the past forty years has been so successful in home treatment of female ills.

Are Now at Zurich. Paris, April 9.—The arrival at Zurich last evening of Frederick C. Penfield, American ambassador to Austria; Mrs. Penfield and the three members of the embassy staff, is reported in a Havas despatch from St. Gall, Switzerland.

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SUPREME COURT APPEALS

Frederickton, N. B., April 9.—The April session of the supreme court, court of appeal, opened today with the following to come up:

Motion paper—Rosenberg vs. Rich, referred by Mr. Justice Crockett, J. J. F. Winslow for defendant to support review of taxation; R. B. Hanson, K. C., for plaintiffs, contra.

Appeal paper county court—Dunham et al vs. Marsten, P. J. Hughes for defendant to support appeal from the York county court.

King's Bench division—Robertson vs. Lorne E. Norton, consolidated actions, George Gilbert, K. C. for plaintiff, to move to set aside verdict entered for defendant, James Norton, and to enter verdict for plaintiff, or for a new trial.

Robertson vs. James Norton, J. P. Byrne, K. C. for defendant; Lorne E. Norton to support cross appeal to vary judgment or to reduce verdict for plaintiff.

Berlin Machine Works, Ltd. vs. Randolph & Baker, Ltd., J. D. P. Lewin for plaintiff, to support appeal to rescind or set aside or vary judgment of Mr. Justice Barry.

SPANISH MONARCHY NOT IN JEOPARDY. SAYS AMBASSADOR. Diplomat at Washington Says Effect Was to Contrary, that Political Upheaval Wiped Away All Labor Difficulties.

Washington, April 9.—Ambassador Riano of Spain said today he is in a position to deny reports that a political upheaval was threatened in his country, and that the monarchy was in peril. "All my despatches," said the ambassador, "show that exactly the contrary is true. Labor troubles, inaugurated by agitators, completely disappeared after the recent outbreak. The great body of the people of Spain are patriotic and loyal, and there is no probability or possibility of a revolution such as recent rumors and reports, some of which have been published in this country, seek to indicate. Complete tranquillity reigns throughout all Spain."

Miss Beauty Chorus (returning to her native village and anxious to impress her fiancé)—I say, portah, isn't it possible to get a taxi or something for all our luggage in this one-eyed old place? Porter—Yell no need one, Maggie. Yer father's just comin' down the street w' his wheel-barrow.

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O-Cedar is totally different. With it, you both clean and beautify. With it you remove the accumulated dust and bring out all the grain beauty that has perhaps lain hidden for years in that old chair of yours. With it, you can give that fine mahogany table a lustrous polish that will last for weeks. With O-Cedar all your furniture may be made to continually look "like new"—all it needs between polishing times is an occasional dusting with an O-Cedar Duster.

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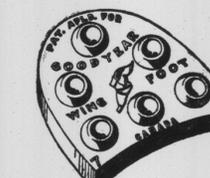
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