

The St. John Standard

VOL. X., NO. 80.

TEN PAGES.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 3, 1918.

CLEARING.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

TOTAL OF 234 LOST ON CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP; AMERICANS AND FRENCH TROOPS WIN SUCCESSES; GERMANS PREPARING ANOTHER GIGANTIC THRUST

LUDENDORFF PLANS HIS MASTER STROKE

In Pending Big German Drive German Commander Must Win a Decision, Not An Inclusive Victory Such As the Somme, Lys or Marne, or Enemy Will Lose the Initiative Forever.

British Expect Tremendous Thrust North of Somme, But French Experts Look For Renewal of Attempt on Paris—German Bombardment Extending and Hundreds of Hun Airplanes Are Scouting.

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper).

London, July 2.—Will the British or the French bear the brunt of the next German attack which is on the eve of being launched against us, is the question discussed everywhere.

The German bombardment is extending, Haig reporting five points north of the Somme where hostile artillery is especially active. From Montdidier to Chateau Thierry, the enemy's guns are thundering. Both the British and French are conducting large raids in the hope of disorganizing the German plans.

Hundreds of airplanes are scouting over the enemy's lines, photographing and reporting troop movements, fresh gun emplacements and trenches, while scores of other machines are dropping bombs both night and day on railways, ammunition dumps and hangars.

For two days prior to the attack on the Chemin Des Dames, the Germans shelled the area in front of Amiens. Now they are concentrating their guns between Albert, Arras and south of Ypres.

British military observers think the next German effort will come north of the Somme, while the French critics are of the opinion that Paris again is Ludendorff's goal. The French consider the almost nightly raids on Paris, which incidentally have become highly ambitious attacks, are aimed as much at the demoralization of French troops movements as they are intended to frighten the Parisians.

Another Surprise.

Ludendorff and his intimate associates alone know where the next blow will fall, though Koch's staff is unlikely to offer another surprise such as the Aisne attack.

All the recent allied raids have disclosed that the German lines are being held by inferiorarrison troops, indicating that the great bulk of the enemy's army has been withdrawn for rest and further training in offensive tactics.

On some points of the front the enemy has not uncovered his guns, for fear of giving away his positions to the allies.

Soon after the end of the Somme offensive it became evident that the enemy was looking forward to July as the decisive month, and that all his plans were being made accordingly. When Rupprecht's great army went into training for his attack, the imperial crown prince had an opportunity to try his hand.

More Than Expected.

The Aisne attack developed beyond German expectations and committed Ludendorff to a greater job than he had anticipated when he launched the drive which carried him to the Marne. Today Ludendorff must not only defeat the British, French and American armies, but he must offset the bad effects of the Austrian reverse on the Piave and vindicate Prussian arms after the attack of Kuchinann.

Ludendorff must win a decision, not an inconclusive victory such as the Somme, Lys or Marne, and he must win it against stronger forces than those confronting him in these earlier battles.

Though the British are anxious, they regard the future confidently. Though expecting desperate fighting, they feel that it will result favorably to them.

When the coming battle is ended, the British believe Ludendorff will have lost the initiative forever. (Continued on page 2)

Forty-five German Air Machines and Balloons Destroyed by British

London, July 2.—British airmen yesterday disposed of forty-two German airplanes and three balloons, according to the official report on aerial operations issued tonight. Of the airplanes, twenty-five were destroyed, fifteen were driven down out of control and two landed behind the British lines, where their occupants were captured. The statement says:

"On July 1 our airplanes were very active, the fine weather enabling much work to be done in co-operation with the artillery, as well as reconnaissance and photography.

"Twenty-five German machines and three German balloons were destroyed during the day and fifteen others were driven down out of control. In addition, two large hostile night-flying machines landed behind our lines, the occupants being taken prisoner.

"Eight of our machines are missing. "Twenty-two tons of bombs were dropped during the day and thirteen tons during the night. All our night flying machines returned safely."

The Independent Air Force communication on aerial operations says:

"During the night of July 1-2, the enemy's air-drome at Boulay was successfully attacked, bursts were observed on the air-drome and hutments. The Oppau works, soda factory and railway line at Mannheim were bombed with good effect, as were also the railway works at Thionville.

"On July 2 bombs were dropped on the railway station at Treves. Our formation was attacked over its objective by twelve enemy machines, one of which was shot down.

"The railway sidings and sheds at Coblenz were bombed with good results. All our machines returned safely."

Total of 234 Lost On Big Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle

British Admiralty Announces That It May Be Assumed That All But Twenty-Four of 258 Persons Perished—Many Canadians Lose Their Lives—Area Where Sinking Occurred Searched Without Success.

London, July 2.—A thorough search of the waters in the vicinity of the spot where the Canadian hospital ship Llandovery Castle was sunk by a German submarine has resulted in no further survivors being found. An official statement issued by the Admiralty says it may be assumed that only 24 out of the 258 persons on board were saved.

The Admiralty statement says: "The area between the spot between where the Llandovery Castle was sunk and the southwest Irish coast has been thoroughly searched by two groups of His Majesty's ships in addition to the (destroyer) Lysander. Only a little wreckage and one empty boat were found. It may be assumed that there are no more survivors from the Llandovery Castle."

Referring to the sinking of the Llandovery Castle the Manchester Guardian says: Two questions often are asked. These are: "Why do German submarine commanders permit these foul deeds which must react upon the neutral world and remain in history as the crowning disgrace of their unclean record?" and "Has Germany ever punished the perpetrators of these deeds?"

"To the first question," says the Manchester Guardian, "the view of those who follow closely the doings of the German admiralty and navy is that the submarine commanders are not acting on instructions in sinking hospital ships, but neither do they run any danger of official censure.

"A ship is a ship, and if a hospital ship is sunk it has to be replaced by another good ship and so the shipping capacity of the allies is reduced.

"The defense which the German government recently made by attributing

IMPORTANT GROUND IS WON BY THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH

U. S. TROOPS IN FRANCE TOTAL 1,019,115 NOW

President Wilson Makes Public Cheering Piece of Information.

SAYS IT WILL ASSIST TO CELEBRATE JULY 4

Total Number of Soldiers Lost At Sea Was Only 291.

NAVAL SHIPS GIVE GOOD PROTECTION

U. S. Troops Going Faster Into Struggle Which Will Redeem World.

Washington, July 2.—American troops sent overseas numbered 1,019,115 on July 1.

This was made known tonight by President Wilson who gave to the public a letter from Secretary Baker disclosing a record of achievement which the president said, "must cause universal satisfaction," and which "will give additional zest to our national celebration of the fourth of July."

The president's statement, with the letter from Secretary Baker and his reply, follow: "I have today received the following letter from the secretary of war which comes to me to contain information will be so satisfactory to the country that its publication will be welcomed and will give additional zest to our national celebration of the fourth of July:

(Continued on page 5)

NEW BRUNSWICK BOYS ON HOSPITAL SHIP LLANDOVERY CASTLE

Two From Fredericton and Three From Marysville Likely Lost.

Fredericton, July 2.—The sinking of the hospital ship Llandovery Castle, seventy miles off Ireland on her return voyage from Halifax to England has brought anxiety to many hearts and homes in this vicinity.

It is known that two Fredericton boys, Frank Williams and Billy Duffy, with three Marysville boys, Edward McPherson, Harry Harrison and Walter Saxe, were assigned to duty on this ship.

From the meagre details received it is feared only twenty-four out of the crew and staff, numbering 258, were saved. The families of the boys mentioned are prostrated over the news made to secure a list of the survivors with the hope that the names of the loved ones may be there.

The destruction of a hospital ship to a mine will not do in the case of the Llandovery Castle. A submarine appeared and the attitude of its captain suggests that this was one of the most cynical and cold-blooded attacks there has been. He declared the ship was carrying eight American flight officers, and then as an after thought, asserted that the explosion in the sink-ink ship showed she must have been carrying ammunition.

"It is right that evidence of this kind should be set before a world jury because the verdict of the world, though the German general staff despises it, will yet be important to Germany in the days to come."

Hurling Themselves At Tip of Salient Driven Into Allied Lines By Germans Late in May French and Americans Win Valuable Points Near Chateau Thierry—Vaux Carried With Rush, Many Teutons Falling in Counter Attacks.

British Forces Northwest of Albert Forced To Fight Hard To Hold Positions They Took From the Germans Sunday Night—Determined Attack By Enemy Threatened To Retake Captured Ground, But Huns Are Repelled.

(Undated war lead by The Associated Press)

Hurling themselves at the tip of the salient driven into the allied lines by the Germans late in May, the Americans and French have won important ground near Chateau Thierry. The attack was local in character, but its success may prove important in the future operations in that part of the battle front nearest Paris.

The assault was aimed at the hamlet of Vaux, which is situated on the south side of the Chateau Thierry-Paris road and on the northern slopes of Hill 204. Vaux is about two miles from Chateau Thierry. This was carried by the rush of the French and Americans, who also occupied two small patches of woods in the immediate vicinity.

The Germans almost immediately began counter-attacks in an attempt to regain the lost positions, but their efforts failed in every instance. In the initial attack and in their repeated assaults against the new lines held by the Allies, the Germans have suffered very heavy losses, at least 500 prisoners having been taken by the French and Americans. (Continued on page 2)

EXPLOSIONS KILL AND INJURE 200

Two Terrific Upheavals At Big Plant Near Syracuse, N. Y., Shake City, Wreck Buildings and Create Havoc Generally — Column of Flame 300 Feet High.

Syracuse, N. Y., July 2.—Many persons are reported to have been killed or injured in two terrific explosions tonight at the huge plant of the Semet-Solvay Company, located at Split Rock, a suburb.

The force of the explosions rocked the city. Flat glass windows in the business sections were broken, residences swayed perceptibly causing their occupants to rush into the streets.

All telephone wires are down and the exact situation in the big munitions plant was unknown at 10:30 o'clock tonight, about one hour after the disaster.

Police headquarters reported at 11:30 o'clock that an incomplete investigation showed 15 persons had been killed and scores injured, many probably fatally.

Fire which preceded the explosion levelled three of the buildings and was raging fiercely at midnight. The police believe the list of dead and injured will mount above 100 when final details are available.

Unequipped with fire apparatus, volunteer firemen were unable to make headway against the spreading flames. Columns of flames shot 300 feet in height. Heat was so intense that it cracked glass hundreds of yards away and a thick noxious smoke combined to handicap the fire fighters and rescuers.

The first explosion in one of the T. N. T. vats ripped building number 1 apart, buried guards under the debris and scattered the flames to adjoining buildings.

Two workmen caught in between two burning buildings were hurled through a wall by the force of the explosion. Still alive they were picked up without a speck of clothing on their bodies. Both probably will die.

Syracuse, N. Y., July 2.—At least 14 persons were killed and 200 injured. A shift of 500 workmen was in the plant when the fire, the origin of which has not been ascertained, broke out. The workmen made efforts to subdue the flames and later in speeding to safety were caught in the first of the two explosions. Men were hurled in all directions, two who were caught between two burning buildings were blown through a wall. Still alive when picked up there was not a shred of clothing on their bodies.

The second big explosion followed 15 minutes later and the combined force of the two blasts crumpled buildings in the vicinity. The homes of workmen, across the road from the plant, collapsed and burning timbers were blown to the roofs of buildings across the railroad tracks which divide the plant in half. Workmen and their families fled across the fields in indescribable confusion. A woman, hysterical was seen carrying a tiny kitten hitched to her breast. (Continued on page 2)