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SATURDAY MORNING APRIL 27 1918—SIXTEEN PAGES

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Readin Room
17mar18

ALLIED ARMS TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Powerful Counter-Attacks Delivered by French Troops, Who Regain Bulk of Ground Lost---British in Ferocious Battle in Ypres Section, Where Decision is in Balance, But Ground Must Be Retaken---Footing is Secured in Hangard Wood.

IMPORTANT GROUND RETAKEN NEAR VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

French Troops, Despite Fierce Resistance by Important Enemy Forces, Regain Large Part of Territory They Had Lost.

Paris, April 26. — Counter-attacks against the German lines from Villers-Bretonneux to the south of the Luce were launched this morning by our troops, who succeeded, despite the fierce resistance of the enemy who had brought up important forces, in retaking a large part of the ground which had been lost in that region, says the official statement issued by the war office tonight.

The statement reads:

"Our troops counter-attacked the German lines this morning from Villers-Bretonneux to the south of the Luce River and have succeeded despite the fierce resistance of the enemy, who had brought up important forces, in retaking a large part of the ground which was lost yesterday.

We have retaken the position at the monument south of Villers-Bretonneux, penetrated into the wood of Hangard-en-Santerre and conquered a part of the western portion of that village.

"The battle has been going on all day and is continuing with exceptional violence. The Germans have tried to arrest our advance at any price and have suffered great losses which were inflicted by our artillery. The German resistance was most notable north of the wood of Hangard-en-Santerre, where the enemy seven times launched their assault battalions against our lines, without forcing our valiant troops to give ground.

"The combat was no less fierce in the Village of Hangard, which has changed hands twice during the day. South of the Luce River we have retaken positions which we have held in spite of al lthe efforts of the enemy. There have been intermittent bombardments on the right bank of the Luce River and at Hartmanns Weilerkopf.

The British Report.

London, April 26.—The Germans have captured Kemmel Mountain and village and also are in possession of Dranoutre, according to the official communication sent by Field Marshal Haig from headquarters in France tonight.

The communication says that north of the Lys River the battle is continuing fiercely along the whole front from the neighborhood of Dranoutre to the Ypres-Comines canal. The text of the field marshal's communication reads:

"North of the Lys River the battle is continuing fiercely on the whole front from the neighborhood of Dranoutre to the Ypres-Comines canal. The enemy has gained possession of Dranoutre, Kemmel Village and Mount Kemmel.

"The enemy's attack yesterday was made in great strength by nine German divisions. The French and British troops counter-attacked and succeeded at first in making some progress, capturing a number of prisoners. Later in the day the enemy renewed his attacks, directing his assaults with particular insistence against the positions from Locre to La Clytte and astride the Ypres-Comines canal. In the neighborhood of La Clytte and Scherpenberg all the enemy's attacks have been held, but after severe fighting, in the course of which a series of determined attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to his troops, he succeeded in pressing our line back in the direction of Locre. On both sides of the Ypres-Comines canal the enemy also made some progress.

"Early this morning the French and British troops attacked the enemy positions south of the Somme in the neighborhood of Hangard and Hangard wood and have carried their line forward at certain points by heavy fighting.

"On the remainder of the British front the situation remains unchanged."

ENEMY ARMS NATIVES ON COAST OF TRIPOLI

Washington, April 26.—German submarines have been landing guns, food and munitions on the coast of Tripoli, according to an official despatch today from France. The despatch quotes Gen. Nivelle, formerly commander-in-chief of the French army, and now commanding the North African troops, as saying that the situation in the section open to German-Turkish attack on the Tripolitan coast is well consolidated against attack from the allied tribes who have been co-operating with the Germans and Turks.

French recruiting of friendly natives continues, and these men become good soldiers in six months.

DUTCH SOLDIERS HELD

All Leaves of Absence of Land and Sea Forces Have Been Stopped.

BULLETIN—The Hague, April 26.—The commander-in-chief of the land and sea forces in Holland has provisionally stopped all leaves of absence.

CLAIMS MINISTER AS CLOSE FRIEND

Despite Desire to Speak to "Billy" Logie, John Russell is Handcuffed.

RAID RESTAURANTS

Dominion Police Take Many Who Do Not Produce Papers.

Torontonians who frequent the downtown restaurants after 11.30 p.m., had a surprise they had not bargained for last night, for at that time five eating places were simultaneously "raided" for draft act defaulters by members of the Dominion police. Capt. Tom Flanagan, chief of Dominion police for Toronto district, directed the "midnight" raid. A score or two of the Dominion police were on hand, and Childs' Restaurant, Yonge street; McConkey's Restaurant, Queen street; Young's Lunch, Yonge street, and two of the Bowles lunch rooms, were visited and the questioning of the male occupants carried out with speed and smoothness. It took less than three-quarters of an hour to complete the investigation.

Practically all the excitement was caused by a man who gave his name as John Russell of 54 South Queen street, Hamilton. He was apprehended in Childs. It was necessary for two Dominion police constables to accompany him to the police headquarters. En route he raised such strong objection to proceeding with the police that they found it necessary to place single slip handcuffs on him.

On arriving at the Dominion police headquarters he became highly indignant, condemned the action of the police in suddenly accosting him in the restaurant while he was peacefully eating a meal after a hard day's work.

Challenges Police.

He challenged the Dominion police to put him under arrest, and told them if they phoned to "Billie" Logie or "Sid" Mewburn they would find out all about him. "I am here to raise a row," was his answer when he was asked why he was without military papers. He threatened the military police by saying he would get them into serious trouble for his apprehension. He said the whole system in regard to the carrying of military papers was wrong, that all ought to carry them or none at all.

The police who brought him down Yonge street said he asked them where their scars were and he said that every returned soldier should have either an arm or a leg off so that it might readily be seen that they had been in the war. In answer to questions, he said he was 40 years old, was married six years ago in New York, lived part of the time in Hamilton and part in New York. He did not tell what his business was.

War News

Nine German divisions are identified as making attacks in region of Mount Kemmel.

Allies secure footing in Hangard Wood and beat off seven attacks just north of this point.

Monument position south of Villers-Bretonneux is recovered in French counter-attack.

Hangard Village changes hands twice, and half of it remains with the French in all day battle.

British troops fight alongside the French in counter-attacks south of Villers-Bretonneux.

British introduce the Germans to a new style of tank at Cachy and mow them down in heaps.

Field Marshal Haig reports that the Germans have captured Dranoutre, Kemmel Village and Kemmel Mountain.

Why Germany Will Be Smashed!

The war grows in magnitude and may be nearing its extremest elevation; and that is the point where Germany will begin to go to pieces. Germany has more limited resources than the allies; the allies are not exhausted, have still expanding reserves of all kinds. The United States is coming in stronger and stronger.

The Mississippi Basin, which takes in most of the western, northern, middle and southern States, drained by the Missouri, the Ohio, the Arkansas, the Mississippi and many tributaries, is the richest country in the world; rich in live stock, wheat, corn, cotton, sugar, coal, petroleum, iron, copper, factories; inhabited by the most enterprising and productive people in the world. It is alongside the great lakes, with ports and railways leading to the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific. There is more wealth in that great basin than in any other part of the world. Its fertility cannot be exhausted, and its output can be quadrupled with little effort. It never fails. The Mississippi basin is just beginning to come into the war, and it is coming into the struggle determined to remain in it until German autocracy is put down for ever.

Next to the Mississippi in food resources are our own Saskatchewan Plains now only beginning to pour forth their wealth of wheat, other grains, live stock. The resources, the wealth of both are in this war.

On its greatest area and at its highest peak this war is to be between Productive America and Exhausted Germany. British control of the seas is the other predominating factor.

Recognition of these two facts, control of unlimited food and industries and of the undefeated sea power of the allies, by Germany, accounts for her fevered and supreme effort at this stage of the war. She cannot maintain the struggle; still less can she appeal to virgin or untouched resources. America can, and Germany knows it. Britain's sea power, America's food, both are growing and cannot lessen or be exhausted. Is the kaiser playing the Catholic Church as his last card against the Mississippi Basin? He asks us to think so.

To still further invade France, to get to the sea coast, would not, cannot, annihilate the allies. It makes the day of defeat only more sure, more certain, and more crushing. German intrigue is no longer of much avail. It emphasizes rather the awaiting doom.

The spirits and determination of the allies rise to higher levels.

The Great Crisis of the war is the one thing that hastens on, and it is the one thing that Germany has to fear. America will be the dominating force when it arrives. And British pluck and sea power will be alongside. Germany can't beat America and Britain; nor can war lust and intrigue beat courage and justice with a full bread basket.

MUCH ACTIVITY BY HEAVIES.

Paris, April 26.—An official statement issued tonight says: "Eastern theatre, April 25: There has been great activity by our heavy artillery on the larger part of the front, notably on the right bank of the Vardar River and in the region of Monastir. In the Cerna Bend sector a Serbian detachment penetrated enemy positions and destroyed valuable material. Two enemy airplanes were shot down."

CANADIAN NORTHERN BUILDS NEW SHOPS ON SITE AT LEASIDE

New Yards Being Installed There Forecasts Move Up From Rosedale.

LEAVE UNION STATION

Other Big Changes in Railway Operation in Toronto Are Coming.

The C(anadian) N(ational) Railway is making its first adventure in Toronto under government ownership. Construction has begun at Leaside on a roundhouse and on locomotive and car repair shops. A big water tank is already up. The new plant is located immediately north of the C.P.R. yards and northeast of Leaside station, where a large tract of land for this purpose was secured some years ago. Other works will soon follow, including freight sidings, terminals and despatchers' headquarters. More details will be forthcoming when the estimates therefor will have come before parliament; and it is the intention of the minister of railways to outline the national policy in this respect some day next week. Chief Engineer Stewart will not say much in the meantime.

The C.N.R. is likely to withdraw from the Union Station and to operate from the new North Toronto station, jointly constructed for the two roads, and laid out with a double set of ticket offices, despatchers' quarters, etc.

The C.N.R. has its own tracks from North Toronto west to the Humber; and will join with the C.P.R. in the use of the new double track system to the east of Yonge street, thru Leaside. At Donlands Junction, one mile east of Leaside, the new cut-off to Duncan breaks away and goes due north toward Winnipeg and Vancouver via Sudbury.

A Montreal firm is installing a new and up-to-date interlocking junction between the two roads at this point.

Presumably the C. N. R.'s Ottawa and eastern service will also start from North Toronto and run along the C. P. R.'s double tracks to a mile or more east of Agincourt, where the C. N. R.'s line up the Don Valley comes alongside. From here the two lines may be joined as far as Cherrywood (about six miles), where they begin to diverge.

The cut-off from Donlands to Duncan, two miles long, was graded and railed last fall and will be ballasted as soon as the new interlocking junction plant is installed, some time in May.

Removal From Leaside.

The location at Leaside means the removal of a lot of the yards and plant in the valley at Rosedale to the upper level of Leaside to the north and east. Big developments in connection with the line down to the Esplanade, where extensive freight sheds and sidings and cartage plant are already located; and still greater improvements in the way of docks, coal yards and a system of car ferries across the lake to the American shore.

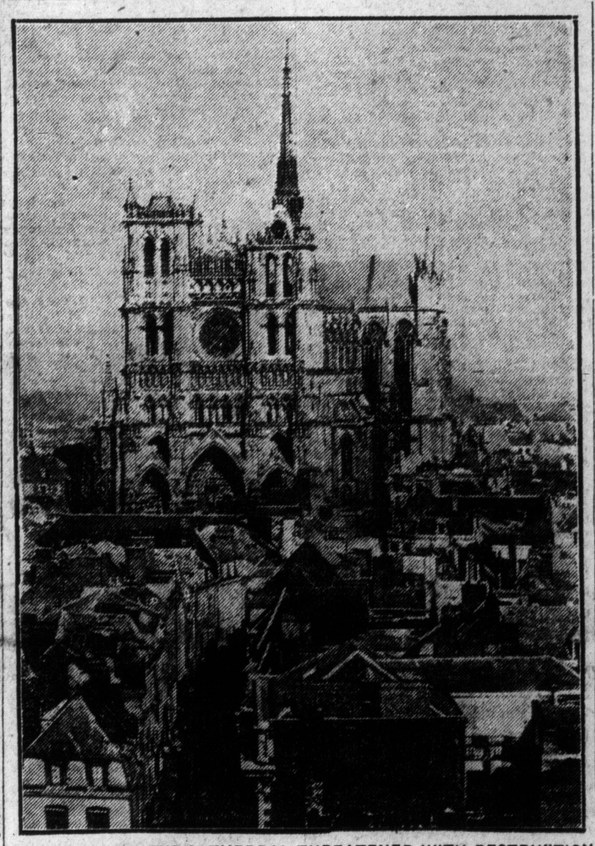
According to D. B. Hanna, vice-president and administrative head of the Canadian Northern, everything is being done by the old company and on lines of policy long ago settled upon; after the award of the arbitrators, as to the value of the Mackenzie and Mann shares taken over by the country, the road will be still run under its present officials and company organization subject to instructions of the new shareholder, the state.

The second track of the C.P.R. double line across North Toronto has been finished from Leaside Junction westerly to the Pottery road, or the other side of the new concrete viaduct across the belt line ravine. The rails and ties for this new bridge will be placed today and Monday, with trains going over both tracks by the middle of the week. The little piece of double track between this bridge and the reservoir bridge will then be finished, ready for the completion of the latter within the next fortnight, thus completing the finest piece of double tracking (from Agincourt westerly to beyond Guelph Junction) on the C.P.R. system. It has been a very expensive work and has been under way for years. There is some talk of the city and the railway negotiating for the immediate construction of the subway under the tracks near St. Andrew's College, thus wiping out the level crossing of Mcclennan avenue.

Conscription in Ireland To Be Enforced Next Week

London, April 26.—It is reported in Nationalist circles that an order-in-council will be signed enforcing conscription in Ireland next week, says a Central News despatch from Dublin.

FRENCH MAKE FURIOUS FIGHT TO RECAPTURE KEMMEL HILL



BEAUTIFUL AMIENS CATHEDRAL THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION

The famous cathedral at Amiens will probably suffer the same fate as the beautiful edifice at Rheims. It has been hit a number of times by heavy shells from the Hun batteries nine miles away. Amiens Cathedral was built between 1220 and 1288, and is a monument to Gothic art at the zenith of its development. This photo shows the cathedral and the surrounding streets.

Important Position Taken By Germans Must Be Won Back or Whole Ypres Sector Will Be in Peril.

British Headquarters in France, April 26. — (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—The French have attacked Kemmel Hill and a furious battle is raging. The Germans have attacked from La Clytte to the Ypres-Comines Canal. The Franco-British armies, attacking from Villers-Bretonneux to opposite Hangard, have made progress.

Associated Press War Summary.

Kemmel Hill, a height which has been looked upon as the key to the southern side of the Ypres salient, and one of the most important strategic positions on the northern battlefront in France, has been taken by the Germans. After a defence which will become one of the heroic chapters of the war the hill was surrounded and the French forces entrenched on its slopes were overcome.

The loss of the hill, which is admitted in an official statement by Gen. Delma Radcliffe, chief director of military operations at the British war office, brings to the allies a realization that the whole Ypres position is in peril from the German drive northward from the lowlands lying to the west of Armentieres.

The Teutons launched terrific attacks along the whole Wytschaete-Bailleul-Meteren line Wednesday, apparently for the purpose of finding a point which might yield. They evidently found that spot in the section of the front held jointly by the British and French troops, and against it they hurled fresh divisions which fought their way forward all day Thursday until at nightfall they had surrounded Kemmel Hill and isolated the French troops holding the position.

Storming of Summit.

All night long the fight went on, and it was not until Friday that the Germans succeeded in storming up the slopes of the height.

The loss of Kemmel hill is serious, for it overlooks much of the lowlands lying back of the allied lines in the Ypres salient. The hill is 464 feet in height, rising from lowlands on the south and east. It is six miles southwest of Ypres and three miles west of Wytschaete.

This German success cuts a deep notch in the allied line to the southwest of Ypres and completely outflanks the British on the northern slopes of Messines Ridge, to which they were forced by the German assaults of two weeks ago. The line to the southwest, toward Bailleul, apparently is in no particular danger at present, altho the Village of Dranoutre has been lost to the enemy.

Counter-attack Necessary.

So important is the possession of Kemmel hill that the allies must launch a counter-attack to recapture it, and the French have begun a savage attack on the height. If the Germans continue to hold it and either consolidate their lines or push on, the allies will be at a great disadvantage in future engagements.

The latest reports from the scene of the battle are that the Germans are attacking on a line from La Clytte to the Ypres-Comines Canal. La Clytte is about a mile and a half north of Kemmel Hill and is six and a half miles west of the Ypres-Comines Canal, which runs almost due south from Ypres.

The evident purpose of this attack is to roll up the allied position south of Ypres and force a retirement from that war-tortured town. The position of the Germans is such that only the sternest defense will avail to check their threatening advance.

Fighting in South.

At other points along the battle line the Germans have made important gains. At Villers-Bretonneux the British have held their lines and completed the work of clearing out the last German positions on the ground held before the German attacks on Wednesday, but Hangard is apparently still in German hands, and the Teutons have forged ahead just to the north of this village and are reported to have launched attacks on the Town of Cachy, without, however, having occupied the place.

Further south, immediately north of Castel, the Germans have penetrated the Village of Hailles and are in possession of Hill 82, south of the village. The French have counter-attacked on this front and regained ground.

At no other points has the enemy advanced, altho bitter fighting has been going on in many sectors in both the Somme and Armentieres battle areas.

There have been artillery duels at various points along the French front to the south of the Somme, as well as positions further south. Only the usual patrol engagements have been reported from the Italian front.

ALLIED ARMS NOW ON THE OFFENSIVE

British and French Troops Begin Counter Operations Against Heavy Odds.

SOME PROGRESS MADE

Intense Conflict is in Progress and the Situation is Nebulous.

With the British Army in France, April 26.—The allied arms today were taking the initiative on both the northern and southern ends of the battlefront. This morning the British and French troops, acting in conjunction, began counter-operations in the region of Mount Kemmel and the neighboring territory which the Germans captured in yesterday's sanguinary struggle.

The aggressors at the time of the filing of this despatch have made some progress, but they were battling in the face of great odds, and heavy fighting was continuing with the enemy holding the advantageous high ground in strength.

South of the Somme the allied forces launched a combined drive against the German positions between Hangard and the southern outskirts of Villers-Bretonneux. The latest reports recorded some advances, but an intense conflict was in progress and the situation was nebulous.

Yesterday Villers-Bretonneux had been cleared of the enemy, who overran it Wednesday, and the British by brilliant counter-attacks had retaken virtually all their original positions.

The main interest from the military point of view today centred in the northern contest, where the Germans have been making such determined efforts to gain control of the chain of hills, of which Kemmel is one, and thereby threaten the allied positions to the north.

Toronto

The power poles for the car service over the Don viaduct have been purchased.

Twenty-two men are gathered in by the Dominion police in three-quarters of an hour.

The Canadian Northern Railway has begun the erection of repair shops at Leaside.

The William Davies Company has severed its connection with the Harris Abattoir Company.

Beatrice Summerville and Irene Davis are injured in an automobile accident on the Lake Shore road.

One hundred and thirty-two wounded soldiers are expected to return to Toronto over the week-end.

Medical examination of the "Original Firsts" now on furlough in Canada shows that many of them are unfit to return to the trenches.

The jury investigating the death of the two Ellicock children in the fire at 124 Sheridan avenue on April 13 denounce the sale of firecrackers to minors.

BARGAIN SALE OF MEN'S AND BOYS' HATS TODAY AT DINEEN'S.

Prices are cut today. This sale of men's, boys' and children's hats will take place in the Basement Department, and will offer many special bargains—many lines have been reduced to half price, odd lines and broken sizes, but all new spring goods—for easy selling they have been arranged on tables in lots with price tickets attached.

Come as early in the morning as possible.

Table of men's black stiff hats, sizes 6⅝ to 7⅛, $1.50.

Table extra quality soft hats, variety of colors. Regular price $2.50 and $2.00, $1.95.

Table men's soft hats; colors black, brown, grey and tan, choice for $1.50.

Table men's tweed sample hats, checks, homespuns, mixed tweeds and plain tweeds, $2.50.

Table boys' tweed hats, worth $1.50, for 75c.

Table children's velours, reduced from $2.50 to $1.75.

A large assortment of men's and boys' peak caps, in all the new checks and mixtures, 75c to $2.50.

Store closes at 6. Dineen & Co., Ltd., 140 Yonge street.