

Weather Forecast:

Fair and Milder

53rd YEAR. No. 22741

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HOME EDITION

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Haig Presses New Assault

CANADIANS CLEAR ENEMY FROM SLOPES OF VIMY RIDGE American Munitions Plant Razed---Hundreds Are Killed

CANADIANS CLEAR FOE'S TROOPS FROM BOTH SIDES OF VIMY

Boys From the Dominion Foil Counter-Attack and Hold Safely Ground Won Yesterday—Germans Reach the Support Trenches Near Ypres, But Are Promptly Ejected—9,000 Prisoners and 40 Guns Taken Monday.

London, April 10.—The British offensive between Lens and St. Quentin, with which the spring operations have been opened and which is still in progress, has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated.

Gen. Sir Douglas Haig today reports that yesterday's captures exceeded 9,000 men, while 40 guns fell into the hands of his troops.

SLOPES ARE CLEARED.

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy Ridge, even the eastern slopes of the ridge having been cleared of Germans. The Canadians also have repulsed German counter-attacks.

These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position, whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai. With Vimy ridge, gone the whole German line covering the French towns and industrial districts to the north becomes a wavering one, and any leisurely retreat the Germans may have planned is made uncertain and precarious.

TIGHTENS THE CHAIN.

With the capture of the famous ridge the British made a considerable stride along the road to Douai, while the capture of the high ground northwest of St. Quentin tightens the chain which the Anglo-French forces are drawing around that town.

A German diversion southeast of Ypres, according to Gen. Haig's report, met with no success.

The Germans succeeded in reaching British support trenches but were immediately ejected.

THE NIGHT FIGHTING.

The announcement, which is timed 11:50 a.m., is as follows: "During the night there was severe fighting at the northern end of Vimy Ridge, where the enemy had retained a footing. He was ejected, and an attempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge has been cleared of the enemy and counter-attacks repulsed.

"Our troops advanced and seized the village of Pampouze and neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe."

9,000 PRISONERS.

"The number of prisoners taken yesterday exceeds 9,000, and over 40 guns have been captured.

"In the neighborhood of St. Quentin the enemy has been driven from the high ground between Le Regulier and Hargicourt. Fighting continues throughout the whole battlefield.

"After an intense bombardment the enemy made a strong attack last night on a narrow front southeast of Ypres, and succeeded in reaching our support lines. He was immediately ejected from our trenches, leaving several dead."

GERMANS ADMIT LOSS.

Berlin, April 10.—Via London, 4:50 p.m.—Regarding the heavy fighting on the western front today's army headquarters' statement reports that the "battle near Arras continues."

"In stubbornly resisting the superiority of the enemy," adds the statement, "two of our divisions suffered considerable losses."

"The British," continues the statement, "succeeded in penetrating our positions on the roads radiating from Arras, but did not break through."

The German statement announces that the British attack was on a front of 20 kilometres, and was launched after an exceedingly violent artillery fire.

Southeast of Ypres, the Germans penetrated beyond the third British line. Along the Aisne and near Rheims the artillery fire was very lively yesterday from noon on.

BRITISH CASUALTIES LIGHT.

With the British armies in France, April 10.—Via London.—The British casualties have been light, a fact which is due largely to the splendid artillery covering. Most of the casualties are slight wounds.

Men who are walking back to the hospital stations from the forward moving front give glowing accounts of the fighting. After being bandaged hurriedly in the forward dressing posts, the wounded men return, whistling or singing, in high spirits.

"Fun at the 'Cages.'"

The crowded cages for prisoners at corps and divisional headquarters have been a source of greatest interest to the Tommies who are awaiting their turn at the front. They gather about the outer circle of cages and are able to speak English. Even in this third year of the war waiters from London hotels and cafes at some of these questions, and the replies of the Tommies cause laughter in turn within the cages. The prisoners toss out water bottles which the British refill and fling back. There is also a lively exchange of souvenirs.

MARTIAL LAW PROCLAIMED BY GOVT. OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Guatemala, April 9.—Martial law has been declared in Guatemala. The action was taken on information of disturbances along the Mexican and Salvadorean frontiers, supposed to have been created with German assistance.

GERMAN PRISONERS TAKEN BY CANADIANS



Advertiser Illustration.

BRITISH SMASH MAY NET 15,000 MEN AND 100 GUNS; "PUSH" NEAR LAST WORKS

British and Canadians Facing Final System of Defences Before "Hindenburg Line"—Dominion's Fighters Go Into Battle Singing Ragtime.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

By William Philip Simms, U. P. Staff Correspondent.

With the British Armies Afield, April 10.—There is every reason to believe by tonight the great British smash will have netted Field Marshal Haig 15,000 prisoners and between 50 and 100 guns.

The driving force of the great offensive was undiminished today, even with bitter opposition from the enemy.

While these figures are unofficial they are based on careful estimates and calculation.

Facing Last Defences.

To the south of Scarpe today the British and Canadians were facing the last system of the German line, which is nearly opposite the famous "Hindenburg line."

From this point the fighting front runs by Feuchy, Chapelle to the east of Neuville, Vitisse and southward. All along in this section the troops are now attacking the Hindenburg defences.

Troops Are Pleased.

The fighting had not slackened in the slightest degree today. The troops are immensely pleased to be moving again after the inaction of trench warfare. When the "push" started one could hear thousands marching through the blackness of the night singing and joking. The Canadian divisions, he it known, stepped along to the lively singing of Canadian songs and American ragtime in midst of a howling snow-storm.

Prisoners Cheerful.

Prisoners continued to pour back of the lines today, most of them Wurttembergers, Hamburgers and Bavarians. They appeared quite cheerful. Even among the officers among them seemed much relieved.

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BRITISH DRIVE ALL ALONG LINE PRESSING HOME NEW OFFENSIVE; MUCH BOOTY CAPTURED TODAY

Hindenburg's Bastion Gone By Canadians' Victory

London, April 10.—One military critic, commenting on the present battle, thus describes the importance of Vimy Heights: "They are admittedly the bastion of the enemy's western line. What ever else has been allowed to go, he held Vimy Ridge with grim resolve, and lavished upon it all the arts in fortification and defensive skill that the war has taught him. Upon it hinges the whole strategy of the enemy's retreat in the west. With Vimy firmly held, he can swing his position line farther south slowly but, until each part of it reaches the French industrial where he has a mind to stand, and he can cover the French industrial with the defence of these districts can hardly be maintained. The pivot of the whole retreat shifts and gives backward, and is in instant risk of fracture."

THE WAR SITUATION

As a result of the offensive begun yesterday along the line from Lens to Arras the British have captured and hold apparently firm possession of Vimy Ridge, carried by the Canadians, and considered by the Germans as one of the most powerful drives of the war.

More than 9,000 Germans were taken prisoner in one day's fighting and forty guns captured. The progress favorably to the British, who have drawn closer to St. Quentin, taking commanding ground to the northwest.

North of the Lens-Arras sector the Germans made a drive on a narrow front, penetrating the British lines southeast of Ypres, but being immediately ejected in a counter-attack.

The French, for their part, are continuing to fight their way forward northeast of Soissons, and are progressing east of the lower Cotey forest.

GRAVE DANGER OF A GERMAN THRUST AT RUSS CAPITAL

Provisional Govt. Announces Situation Is Serious.

Petrograd, April 10.—Via London.—The Provisional Government has issued a lengthy proclamation directing attention to the grave danger of a German effort to deliver a decisive blow at Russia and the necessity of immediately concentrating all of Russia's forces for the defeat of the enemy.

"The Provisional Government," says the proclamation, "feels that it has no right to hide the truth. The state is in danger, and it is necessary to employ all our powers to save it. The old regime left Russia in a sadly disorganized condition, especially in the matter of finances, food supply, transport and munitions."

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Haig's Troops Are Smashing Enemy's Line From South of Cambrai to Lens---Record Barrage Fire Breaks Up Great Preparation By Germans For Counter-Attack---Many Officers Taken Prisoner.

With the British Armies in France, April 10.—Via London, 2 p.m.—(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press) Yesterday the British pressed their attack against the Germans today all along the line from a point south of Cambrai to the vicinity of Lens. So much booty was taken in the first rush of this new assault that it has not all been reported, but it is believed a large number of guns were captured.

SURPASS SOMME GAIN.

Yesterday's fighting and gains far surpassed the first days of the battle of the Somme last July. The Canadians today command the Vimy Ridge and are reported to be well beyond it at some points. More villages were captured today in the direction of Cambrai, and the fighting there is intense.

RECORD BARRAGE FIRE.

Clearing weather yesterday afternoon permitted the airplanes to detect German trains moving toward the rail head, apparently for a counter-attack on Vimy Ridge. This fact was reported to the artillery, and all long-range guns for ten miles around were concentrated suddenly on the indicated point in what probably constituted a new record for long-distance barrage fire with heavy guns. Thus the plans for a counter-attack were absolutely destroyed before the reserve troops could detain.

OFFENSIVE EXTENDING.

Correspondents at the front report the fighting continuing keenly throughout last night, with the British offensive gradually extending northward, there being fighting this morning in the direction of La Bassée.

MANY OFFICERS TAKEN.

Some 150 officers are among the prisoners already taken, these including five battalion commanders. Although forty guns captured is the official count thus far, the number is expected to reach three figures, while quantities of trench mortars, bomb-throwers, machine guns and ammunition also have been captured. The Germans destroyed great quantities of supplies at the last minute to prevent their capture.

The weather continues bitterly cold, with snow flurries, but the British forces are clad in sheepskins and are being kept well fed.

BRAZIL BREAKS WITH FRENCH MOVE AHEAD GERMAN GOVERNMENT NORTH OF THE OISE DURING THE NIGHT

London, April 10, 1:13 p.m.—Diplomatic relations between Brazil and Germany have been broken off, according to the Evening News.

Rio de Janeiro, April 10.—Switzerland will take charge of Brazilian interests at Berlin.

J. H. BROWN DEAD
(Special to The Advertiser.)
[Winnipeg, Man., April 10.] J. H. Brown, deputy registrar of land titles, aged 37, one of the best-known citizens of Winnipeg, died suddenly today from pneumonia. The body will be sent to Woodstock for interment.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 51; lowest, 26. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 53; lowest, 20.

THE WEATHER
TOMORROW—FAIR AND MILD.
Toronto, April 10—8 a.m. Forecasts.

Today—Fine. Wednesday—Southeasterly winds; fair and a little milder.

Temperatures.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
Victoria	50	38	Cloudy
Calgary	50	30	Fair
Winnipeg	52	24	Fair
Port Arthur	52	24	Fair
Perry Sound	52	14	Clear
Toronto	52	24	Fair
Ottawa	50	20	Fair
Montreal	50	18	Cloudy
Quebec	50	10	Fair
Father Point	50	18	Show

Weather Notes.
The disturbance which was off the middle Atlantic coast yesterday has moved into the Maritime Provinces, accompanied by gales with snow and rain.

The weather continues very cold throughout Ontario and Quebec, but in the Western Provinces there has been a change to somewhat milder conditions.

Immense Issues.
The issues depending upon British ability to hold the ridge are therefore immense. At the moment there is nothing to suggest a doubt that the ridge will be held, but the battle is still fiercely continuing, and there is no definite disposition here to employ the British. Nevertheless, the opinion is expressed that if the Germans are driven from the ridge without hope of retaking, they are likely enough to be compelled to acknowledge defeat, and retire to what is called the Meuse line, running from Verdun through Metz, Maubeuge and Lille.

Light on Wide Front.
In the meantime the fighting goes on over a front of about fifty miles, roughly from Lens to St. Quentin, the core of attack being around north of Arras.

As far as information goes, everything is going well for the British, and just as their sanguine hopes, but the comments today generally include a warning not to allow the hope to run too high. The enemy is known to have great reserves at hand, and an iron conclusion binds him to make every effort to avoid defeat. The papers are in a spirit of sober expectation, and that it is not the time for exuberant boasting.



LIEUT. HAROLD TALBOT, B. A., of Postmaster John Talbot of Dorchester, who died as result of injuries received at Camp Borden.

CANADA WILL BE PROUD, MONARCH TELLS GEN. HAIG

London, April 10—2:55 p.m.—King George sent the following message today to Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the British armies on the western front: "The whole Empire will rejoice at the news of yesterday's successful operations. Canada will be proud that the taking of the coveted Vimy Ridge has fallen to the lot of her troops. I heartily congratulate you and all who have taken part in this splendid achievement."