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Battle Now Raging Over 70 Mile Front With Tide Turning in Favor Of Allies

Confidence Increasing; Germans Able No Longer to Shape Course of Fight

General Feeling is that Germany Has Virtually Lost the Battle and Allies Are About to Begin to Win—British Hold All North of Somme; Retire Slightly South of River—French Cling To Towns Taken and Capture One More

Paris, Mar. 29—The great battle is now raging over a front of more than seventy miles. This extension of the line has increased the number of German reserves engaged. Although thus far no decisive success has been obtained anywhere there is increased confidence. The impression in semi-official circles is that the Allies have not only held off the Germans, but are now no longer compelled to permit the enemy by his manoeuvres to shape the course which the battle shall take.

The general feeling is that for Germany the battle is virtually lost, that for the Allies the battle is about to begin. The operations thus far are accepted as confirming the theory that Paris was not the main objective of the German offensive, but that the plan of the enemy was to break the connection between the French and British armies, in which he has failed. His main direct attack was westward toward the sea. The Germans seek Amiens because this town is an important railway centre of communications with England. The loss of Amiens would be inconvenient, but not vital.

AMIENS REAL OBJECTIVE

Marcel Sembat, former minister of public works, in L'Heure writes: "The situation is improving for us and improving rapidly. The German attack in the Mont Didier region is likely to prove a formidable failure."

"Towards Amiens, which is the real objective of the Germans, their attacks are meeting with a stubborn defence. They must have Amiens to cut off the British. They must reach the sea to attempt an enveloping movement. Nothing will be spared to defend Amiens to the last."

The eighth day of the battle brought a change in the weather, if conditions at the front are the same as in Paris. The wind shifted from the northwest to the southwest, which will make it difficult for the Germans to bring up their artillery over the ground they have captured.

FRENCH RESERVES IN POSITION

It may now be said that the French armies in reserve have come into positions, and the numerical superiority which the Germans enjoyed in their first rush is decreasing.

London, Mar. 29—On the Somme the British have maintained their positions and gained ground in places by successful counter-attacks. The war office so announces. After holding their line all day, in the face of repeated assaults by numerically superior enemy forces, the British retired a short distance from their advanced positions at some points. The Germans again suffered exceedingly heavy losses. The British took prisoners.

The statement follows:

"Further strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening at several points along the battle front. North of the Somme our troops have maintained their positions and have gained ground in places by successful counter-attacks. A number of prisoners and machine guns were captured by us in this fighting."

"The enemy again suffered exceedingly heavy casualties. His frequent attacks, which were pressed with great determination throughout the day, gained only our outposts, after several hours of hand-to-hand fighting. His reserves were then sent forward against our battle positions, and were everywhere thrown back with great loss. Our machine gun, artillery and rifle fire did great execution upon his ranks."

"South of the Somme also heavy and continuous fighting took place until late in the evening. Our troops, after maintaining their line all day in the face of repeated assaults by superior enemy forces, have withdrawn a short distance from their advanced positions."

CHECK NORTH OF ARRAS, ALLIED SUCCESS ELSEWHERE, PARIS CALMLY CONFIDENT.

Paris, Mar. 29—Reports of yesterday's operations are encouraging in two particulars, reinforcing the calm confidence which is felt here. First was the planned check north of Arras. The second feature is the effective and increasing reaction on the part of the Allies, resulting in important successes, particularly in the region of Mont Didier.

More cheerful feeling was nowhere more evident than in the lobby of the chamber of deputies. Premier Clemenceau looked in there for a few minutes between two trips to the front.

"I slept last night, and slept well," said the premier. "I had not done that for some time."

Louis Loucheur, minister of munitions, who also came back from the front, spoke on the situation in the most hopeful way.

LATE REPORTS ENCOURAGING.

London, Mar. 29—The latest official reports will tend to restore confidence here, although, according to Field Marshal Haig's report, the Germans have been able to renew heavy attacks along a front of 55 miles, and fighting of the fiercest character is continuing, with fluctuating fortunes. On the whole, the British are holding their positions, and the line is nowhere greatly changed.

French reports fully confirm the favorable indications given by the British war office statement.

OFFERS WHOLE AMERICAN FORCE.

Paris, Mar. 29—General Pershing called on General Foch at headquarters yesterday, according to L'Information, and placed at his disposal the whole resources of the American army for employment in the battle now in progress.

FRENCH DOING WELL.

Paris, Mar. 29—Violent fighting continued last evening and last night in the region of Mont Didier, the war office announced today. In spite of German counter attacks the French held on to the villages which they took yesterday. Noncel was taken by French troops.

North of Mont Didier French and British troops held up the German thrust. The German losses have been extremely heavy. The statement follows:—

"The battle was continued violently last evening and part of the night in the region of Mont Didier. Notwithstanding repeated counter-attacks, the enemy was not able to eject the French from the villages which they captured yesterday. The French troops, following up their success, took possession of Noncel after violent fighting."

"In front of Plessier-de-Roye there has been violent fighting. All the German Aves river and in front of Neuville-Sire-Bernard, Mezieres, Marcel Cave and Hamel.

"The German losses have been extremely heavy. The statement follows:—

"Statements obtained from prisoners confirm reports that the losses suffered by the Germans, without bringing them success, are extremely heavy. The number of corpses found in the vicinity of Mont Didier and near Plessier-de-Roye also confirm this statement."

"To the north of Mont Didier Franco-British troops continue victoriously to hold the Germans on the line along the Aves river and in front of Neuville-Sire-Bernard, Mezieres, Marcel Cave and Hamel.

"The German losses have been extremely heavy. The statement follows:—

BRING DOWN 31 HUN AIRPLANES AND 2 BALLOONS

Fierce Air Fighting at Low Altitude Continues

THE ENEMY HARD HIT

Nineteen British Machines Missing But Some of Them Probably Safe—Air Bombs Burst in Middle of Column of Troops—German Transport Delayed

London, Mar. 29—The continuance of fierce air fighting in the battle area is shown by the report of aerial operations issued last night, which says that on Wednesday twenty-four German machines were brought down in air fighting and seven were driven down out of control. Nineteen British machines are missing. The statement follows:—

"Low flying was again carried out on Wednesday by large bodies of our aeroplanes, while our infantry machines continued their work of reporting the position of our battle line. More than thirty tons of bombs were dropped, and a quarter of a million pounds of ammunition were fired on various targets from a height that ensured accuracy. Several casualties are known to have been inflicted on the enemy, and the bringing up of his troops and ammunition was delayed."

"Twenty-four German machines were brought down in the air fighting, and seven were driven down out of control. Two hostile observation balloons also were destroyed. Nineteen of our machines at present are missing, but a proportion of these are believed to have landed on our side of the line. A very heavy and accurate machine gun fire was dropped from the ground accounted for the greater portion of our casualties."

"On Wednesday the Sablon station at Metz was bombed, more than ten tons of bombs being dropped. Explosions were seen on aidings and along the railway. Today our machines carried out a successful raid on the station at Luxembourg. Twenty-one heavy bombs were dropped and several were seen to burst on their objectives. All our machines returned after both raids."

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CANADIANS TODAY GAVE ENEMY HEAVY DOSE OF GAS AND RAIN OF SHELLS

GOOD FRIDAY IS QUIETLY OBSERVED

Services This Morning Well Attended—Fine Weather Gives Promise of Ideal Easter

Good Friday was quietly observed today. With few exceptions the business houses were closed and the vast majority of people availed themselves of the opportunity to attend church services. Ideal spring weather prevailed.

His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc was celebrated at Good Friday Mass in the Cathedral this morning. At the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified he was assisted by Rev. Wm. M. Dale, as deacon, Rev. A. Allan as sub-deacon, Rev. H. S. Coughlan as archdeacon and Rev. Francis Walker as master of ceremonies. Rev. Fathers Walker, Coughlan and Moore chanted the Passion. At the conclusion of the services there was public veneration of the cross.

In St. Peter's church Rev. Peter Costello, C. S. R., was celebrated at Mass of the Pre-Sanctified. He was assisted by Rev. P. C. O'Hare, C. S. R., as deacon, Rev. F. Healy, C. S. R., as sub-deacon, and Rev. F. Coghlan, C. S. R., as master of ceremonies. At the conclusion of services there was public veneration of the cross.

Rev. (Capt.) G. A. Kuhring spoke to a large congregation at St. John's (Stone) church, this morning on the subject of missionary work among the Jews. In the course of his remarks he pointed out the return of the Jews to their own country than at present, in view of the British drive in Palestine. Recently a comparison of results of missionary work among the heathen and among the Jews was made and it was found to the surprise of those concerned, that the gospel had been accepted much more readily by the latter than by the former.

Commencing with sunset on Wednesday last and continuing for a week until sunset of Wednesday next, the ancient Jewish Feast of the Passover is being observed in the city synagogues. In the Hazen avenue synagogue Rabbi Fletcher has conducted the services and excellent attendance is reported. The whole of the Jewish community turning out en masse to celebrate their oldest and most sacred feast. Services are held morning and evening throughout the week.

At this morning's service a special prayer was introduced by the rabbi for the success of the allied arms on the western front and the intervention of providence to avert what may be a fearful calamity.

The entire sympathy of the Jewish people is now with the British, who are freeing Palestine for their occupation. A mass meeting of the whole Jewish community will be held to discuss the Zionist movement. A movement has been set forth to raise \$6,000,000 for the assistance of Jews who wish to return to Palestine and the local members of synagogues will be called on to do their share in raising this sum. The interest in the Zionist movement is now world-wide and the elders of the various communities in the city are confident that St. John will be well represented in the fund.

London, Mar. 29—President Wilson, the Press Association says, has expressed his willingness to accept the honorary degree of doctor of laws from Cambridge University.

Ottawa, Mar. 29—It is announced that Brigadier-General J. L. Biggar, quartermaster-general of the headquarters staff, has been made a major-general.

Phenix and Pherindan WEATHER REPORT

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

The Toronto Observatory did not send out a report today.

New England—Fair tonight and Saturday; little change in temperature; general to moderate north winds, becoming variable.

Our Men Not Yet in the Big Battle, Says Canadian Press Correspondent, But Await Chance With Determination—Talk of Second Class Being Called Out Under the M. S. A.

(By W. A. Willison, Correspondent of the Canadian Press.) Canadian Army Headquarters, Mar. 29—All units and all ranks in the Canadian army look to the future and the possibility of their being embroiled in the offensive now raging on their right flank with high courage and a steadfast determination that they shall be worthy of the dominion and worthy of the high respect of their forces.

While nothing approaching battle-like activity on the whole of our front has yet developed, our army has been busy day and night. With moonlight nights there has been great aerial activity, our planes being busy behind the enemy lines, whilst hostile machines have bombed villages on our front, in some cases flying so low that they have swept the streets with their machine guns.

Small parties of French civilians are to be met with on the road moving out of the shell area, but there is no general civilian evacuation and hope and confidence have increased that the enemy, in his desperate gamble for a decision, has hastened his final defeat.

North from Lens to Hill 70 we gave the enemy another heavy dose of lethal gas early this morning. No fewer than 1,500 drums were projected on his front line communications in the battle area. Thirty minutes later our guns opened in a battle barrage which lasted for fifteen minutes and swept the enemy assembly, support and front line areas.

CALL OUT SECOND CLASS. Montreal, Mar. 29—Le Devoir quotes Registrar Godin as announcing: "It is not improbable that the second class under the Military Service Act will be called up, as the number of men secured from the first class is not great enough."

Le Devoir states that it has received private information to the effect that the second class will be called up in June.

Berlin Paper Predicts New and Mighty Blow

Says it Will "Tear Hole Through Enemy Ring"—Germans Employ New Methods in Attack; British at Home Deeply Stirred by Gigantic Clash of Arms

Amsterdam, Mar. 29—The German supreme command is about to deliver a new and mighty blow on another part of the front which will "tear a new hole in the already pierced enemy ring," the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin declares.

Paris, Mar. 29—The Germans are employing a new method of attack, the most striking feature of which is smoke cloud camouflage, under cover of which successive waves of attacking forces advance in echelon. After a short and intense artillery preparation, the first wave, armed with automatic rifles, machine guns and new cannon mounted on low carriages for short range fire, is sent forward, firing with a range of 2,000 yards. It is ordered to fire on the reserves, regardless of the opposing forces right at hand, which the succeeding waves must account for. The task of the leading troops is to increase the advantage of surprise by preventing paralyzing counter-attacks on the part of the reserves.

The result of these tactics usually is that the first wave is almost wiped out. The second wave then passes ahead, to be followed by the third, and so on. Thus the oncoming waves have succeeded one another during the eight days of the great conflict.

In London, Mar. 28—(Delayed)—The battle for which no one attempts to give a name because it is on a scale too great for any geographical designation began one week ago this morning. To say that it has been a week of the greatest strain and stress that the British people have ever known would be to make a futile understatement.

The fate of England, indeed of the whole British Empire, has been committed to the test of one clash of arms. Every one has realized this to the depth of his mind. The anxiety in the rural districts has been even keener than in the cities, where the frequent newspaper bulletins have furnished the public with food for discussion and speculation.

The most impressive effect of the crisis has been the sweeping aside of all political factional disputes. Today there is only the united nation, whose hearts are with the soldiers in France. Before the progress of the war had come to the level where discussion of policies and personality were consuming a considerable part of the people's attention, and particularly the attention of politics, today the pacifist journals have fallen into line with the others. They have dropped their criticisms of the management of the war and ceased to talk of peace by negotiation.

Quebec, Mar. 29—Quebec expects nothing of special martial law today, following a riot that broke loose last night in St. Roch's suburb, where 6,000 stormed No. 8 police station and savagely attacked three military police detectives, one of whom Leon Belanger, chief investigator under the M. S. A. is in a serious condition.

The mob, made up mainly of citizens, was enlarged and incited by men forcibly enlisted recently and who took an active part in the fanning of the fiery blaze of riot.

The rioting lasted from nine last night till close to two this morning. The police were apparently helpless. Not a single shot from the police revolvers was fired. The firemen, called on the scene by chief of police Emil Trudel to drench the crowd with the hose, but this was not done. As it is, the station was stormed, torn to pieces, the walls barely standing, even the iron cell doors were torn from their places and parts of them used as clubs by the angry mob.

This morning the three detectives that were beaten last night, Leon Belanger, Arthur Evanturel and L. Plamondon, with Provost Marshal Desroches, are considered out of immediate danger, but Belanger's case is still worrying the doctors. The place where he is kept is not revealed.

Mayor Lavigne, who was on the scene of the riot, and who communicated with the military authorities, was offered the militia last night, to quiet down the (Continue from page 2, seventh column)

WAITING FOR BIG SHOW, CANADIANS WORRY THE ENEMY

Numerous Raids on Our Front—A Quick Finish to Attempt From Enemy Side

London, Mar. 28—(Canadian Associated Press)—A Canadian infantry major writes that the Canadians are usual as on an active part of the front, and fully prepared for big events, attempting in the meantime numerous raids, with the enemy adopting similar tactics.

"Patrols of our battalion," he writes, "detected the hordes the other night embarking on a particularly ambitious effort, but the moment he left the trenches everything in the way of artillery, trench mortars, machine gun and rifle fire was turned on as if by an electric button. He not only failed to enter our line, but did not secure a single prisoner while we got two."

London, Mar. 29—British casualties reported for the week ended yesterday aggregate 8,618, divided as follows: Officers killed or died of wounds, seventy-nine; men killed or died of wounds, 604; officers wounded or missing, 208; men wounded or missing, 2,667.

The fact that only 3,618 casualties were reported for the week would indicate that losses since March 21 in the Cambrai battle are not included.

CASUALTIES IN THE BIG FIGHT NOT INCLUDED

GERMANS KILL NURSE

Wife of Russian General Was Serving in Hospital Near French Front

Paris, Mar. 29—Madame Gourko, wife of a Russian general, has been killed by a bomb from a German airplane. She was serving as a nurse in a hospital near the French front.

Foch, Brilliant Strategist, To Be in Supreme Command On The Western Front?

There have been several reports recently that General Foch, one of the most brilliant strategists of the day, who was largely responsible for the French victory in the battle of the Marne, would be placed in supreme command on the western front. The Daily Chronicle, of London, yesterday said an announcement bearing on the co-ordination of British and French military exertions might be expected almost immediately, and that an influential role might be assigned to General Foch.

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