

BATTLE RAGING FURIOUSLY.

Germany's Might Thrown Against British 1st Line

Second and Third Lines Not Yet Engaged Berlin's Claims are Premature. The Khaki First Line Still Holds the Enemy Tight.

WONDER HOW THEY SURVIVED, LONDON, March 23.

The artillery preparations of the Germans in the drive against the British lines which is now in progress is described by those who took part in it as the most violent they ever endured, according to the Daily Graphic correspondent on the British front. The things that stand out as characteristic of the fighting up to the present, says the correspondent, is that we did so well under the terrific impact. Upon one corps front there was a gun every 15 yards. The strength of the mortars, which the enemy brought up in such great numbers, is another feature. The weight of iron and high explosives used in most parts of the front was not an obstacle and trenching was continued. At the same time all of our battery positions were protected with gas, but their gas shells failed to reach all of our batteries, nor did they succeed anywhere in breaking down our wire. At one point where the Germans found our wire unbroken they set to work with axes until they had made a way through, an incident reminiscent of the methods of fighting advocated by Frederick the Great. All this was done under our machine gun fire.

In an attempt to smash through the British defences.

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES.
LONDON, March 23.
The battle is continuing with the greatest intensity on the whole front on the Scarpe River. Field Marshal Haig's report to-night announces that south and west of St. Quentin our troops have taken up new positions and are heavily engaged with the enemy. During the night strong hostile attacks in the neighbourhood of Jassy, south of St. Quentin, were repulsed with great loss to the enemy. On the northern portion of the battle front the enemy's attacks have been pressed with the utmost determination and regardless of losses. Our troops have maintained their positions on the greater part of this front after a fierce and prolonged struggle. Great gallantry has been shown by the troops engaged in the fighting in this area, and south thereof, and the tenth and nineteenth divisions distinguished themselves by the valour of their defence. In one sector alone six hostile attacks in two of which German cavalry took part, were beaten off by one of our infantry brigades. The enemy's attacks continue with great violence.

sends his congratulations to the troops of your army on the splendid defence to-day. He relies upon their continued steadfastness and valor to crush this new attack, and with it, the enemy's last hope of success.

MORE BERLINESSE.
BERLIN (Official), To-Day.
Paris is being bombarded by long distance guns. The British in their retirement are burning French towns and villages, and between the Somme and the Oise the Germans are still going forward. Huge quantities of booty have been taken by the Germans and in addition the town of Chauny has been captured.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS REPORT.
British Army Headquarters in France (By Associated Press), To-Day.—The British and French, who co-operate at the junction of the two armies were viewing the trend of the German offensive with optimistic eyes this morning. Hard fighting was in progress, but the latest reports showed little or no change in the situation since yesterday, while on the other hand the British had pushed the attacking forces back after a big struggle, and were holding strongly along the whole new front to which they had withdrawn. Fighting of a most desperate character has been continuous since the initial attack, but so far the British have used no other troops than those holding the front. These shock troops have been making as gallant a defence as ever was recorded in the annals of the British Army, and as a result have enabled the main body to fall back deliberately and without confusion, and to occupy positions prepared long before the German offensive began.

In fact, the whole retreat has been executed in a masterly fashion, showing how thoroughly the British planned every event which has occurred. It is permitted to say now, what some knew for a long time, that the British never tried to hold the forward position in this region, as a German attack in force was expected, and there is every reason to believe that harder fighting than has yet taken place will develop shortly, as the Germans, in the British view, cannot now hesitate in carrying on their attack and it is a case of break through or admit defeat in this circumstance it is of interest to note a statement made yesterday by a German officer, a prisoner, who stated that the German offensive was an act of desperation, brought on from the fact that the Fatherland must have peace. However, the British make such assertions at their face value and are proceeding accordingly. The hardest of the fighting yesterday occurred east of Ham, in the Bois de Genlis. The most important phase of the battle occurred in the latter neighbourhood, as during the morning the German had pushed southward to Ham and had succeeded in getting a foothold at some points of the defence to which the British had fallen back. Here the British organised a counter attack and hurled themselves against the Germans with such severity that the enemy was forced to give way and the situation was restored. This was one of the few counter attacks made by the British. Last night was fairly quiet along the front, but this morning the British again surged forward against the Germans to the southeast of Ham, while the enemy continued his assaults in the neighbourhood of Moory, southwest of Croiselles.

EMERGENCY MANOEUVRES MAY BE USED.
LONDON, To-Day.
The German offensive reports of last night represent the battle position in France as undoubtedly grave, but do not attempt to appraise the situation or to prophesy the course of events. They consider this the critical hour of the war. The German seizure of Chauny may compel the withdrawal of the French troops in order to preserve their contact and alignment with the British. The rests with the use by the British Army of the manoeuvres inaugurated at the Versailles Conference, which is to be followed in an emergency. The Daily Mail says that Field Marshal Haig's report that the Germans broke through west of St. Quentin was a term broke through in a generally accepted military sense. It is serious, but time alone can show the correct interpretation.

REDOUBT HOLD GERMAN ADVANCE.
LONDON, To-Day.
The Daily Mail correspondent at the front, telling of the battle now in progress along a considerable part of the front, says there were a number of redoubts and strong positions, being held by 100 men, somewhat on the principle of blockhouses in South Africa, with formidable belts of barbed wire around them and a strong armament of machine guns and trench mortars, and provisioned for two days. All of them did valuable work in delaying the German advance. They were surrounded and subjected to terrible fire, but all held on during the first day of fighting. Until late in the afternoon the Germans suffered from machine gun fire. Their mode of attack crossing "No Man's Land" consisted of a first wave of two companies, marching almost shoulder to shoulder, with light machine guns; 100 yards behind came two more companies closely followed by number of machine guns and next, after an interval of two or three hundred yards, came light trench mortars and the battalion staff; again there was a space of 200 yards, and then, across prepared exits from their trenches, field artillery drove out into the open columns, forming the line of battle as soon as possible.

HAS IT ALL PLANNED.
AMSTERDAM, To-Day.
The military correspondent of the Vossische Zeitung, Berlin, commenting on the German offensive, says, whether the enemy is given time to consolidate his rear positions, before a fresh blow is struck at the same spot, need not be discussed, as maybe Von Hindenburg will drive a wedge further into the enemy's rear. It is just probable that the next blow will be delivered on another front. Heavy artillery battle around Verdun, fighting in Lorraine, at Chateau des Dames and Champagne, may all be preursors of fresh blows. Our objects are not to win ground, but to destroy the enemy's forces, and his means for the continuation of the war. From this point of view, General Foch's reserve will form our final battle aim.

GERMAN ATTACK HELD.
LONDON, To-Day.
Commenting on the battle, the Daily Graphic says in the main the enemy is held, nevertheless we are bound to recognize that the situation viewed as a whole is grave, and pointing out that the Germans have been able to bring to bear at

certain points of the line an attacking force which outnumbered the defenders. The Graphic concludes, "but providing the breaking of the line involves no panic, but only a retirement to previously prepared positions, our loss is repairable."

AN ANXIOUS WEEK.
LONDON, To-Day.
The British people have experienced no period of anxiety comparable with this week, since the days of the retreat from Mons, August, 1914, while the fate of the small British army was undecided. There was perfect spring weather to-day and the streets and parks were crowded, but solemnity and gravity prevailed everywhere, which even strangers must have noticed. Men, women and even children were reading papers and special editions which were printed during the afternoon. Official reports were brought as fast as the papers could supply them. Churches were filled and the day was one of anxious waiting. The British people hadn't expected any marked retreating by the British army although they had been warned that this would be a national development of the great battle, hence ballads caused a general depression. Toward night, however, it became known that offensive moves of the situation didn't warrant any despondency. The loss of ground was regarded as inevitable but the British casualties are understood to be small, considering the magnitude of the operations, and reports give them. Participation of American soldiers in the battle was one of the much discussed features.

2.30 P. M.
TO PRAY FOR VICTORY.
LONDON, To-Day.
The Bishop of London, the Right Rev. Arthur P. W. Ingram, has passed the message to the people of London, saying, the great struggle for the freedom of the world has now clearly reached its crisis. Do let us who are in the city pray as we pray before for the gallant men and their leaders, upon whom, and God, the issue depends. Besides our private prayers and prayers in the churches at the hours of noon each day, let us hush ourselves where ever we are at work, in traffic, in bank, in munition factory, and invoke divine strength and wisdom to come to our aid; then indeed will this be Holy Week in the truest sense, and it will lead on to it pleases God, to an Easter Victory.

PARIS AIR RAIDED.
PARIS, To-Day.
Another air raid was sounded shortly after one o'clock this morning. After three-quarters of an hour, firemen's bugles and church bells announced all was over and the Parisians were able to return to their beds.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS REPORT.
British Army Headquarters in France, To-Day.—The main thrust on the British right flank, by the Germans, and a strong offensive, south of St. Quentin, and the enemy used a division on every two thousand yards of the front, there being approximately one German battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urville and Essegny le Grand, and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It is now possible to give more details of the early stages of this and other fighting. On the extreme right of the British Army the enemy crossed the Scarpe River at two places. One body of troops came out of Lafere and swung north, while another army crossed at Mory and turned south to form a junction with the Lafere groups.

Throughout the day the battle raged in the lowlands about the Oise at Venduill. A group of British held out until four o'clock Friday afternoon. A little further north the Germans attempted to get across to the British side. Further north the British also withdrew from the Holnon Wood. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and Saturday morning after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British positions.

In the other main theatre of operations between Arras and Bapaume, the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between Goejel and Senze Rivars. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific and their infantry outnumbered the British eight to one. In some cases, early the Germans began attacking southward into Bullecourt and the British withdrew to a line covering Vanlaix, Vrancourt, Moches and Baumetz Les Canvaux, the hottest and

most disputed point was Mory which the Germans occupied early yesterday.

LONG RANGE BOMBARDMENT.
PARIS, To-Day.
The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6.30 o'clock this morning, but was interrupted after the second shot.

DUTCH REFUSE.
LONDON, To-Day.
The Dutch Cabinet is said to have decided Sunday to send the Allied Powers a formal refusal of their offer of grain in return for Dutch ships, a despatch from the Hague to the Daily Mail says.

AIR SHIP OVER CAIRO.
LONDON, To-Day.
The inhabitants of Cairo, the capital of Egypt, were informed officially last Thursday, according to a Reuter despatch, that a hostile air ship had been observed over the coast. The public was warned of the possibility of air raids and ordered to observe the necessary lighting regulations.

EXTREMELY HEAVY FIRING.
LONDON, To-Day.
Extremely heavy firing from the direction of Flanders was heard all last night along the Kentish coast. According to the Central News, the heavy concussions shook the houses.

Here and There.
GUESTS AT CROSBIE.—The following have registered at the Crosbie: E. S. Bent, Boston; H. Goldstone, Bell Island; H. W. Saunders, W. H. Myles, St. John, N.B.; R. B. Clarke, Montreal.

GETS NEW APPOINTMENT.—Mr. Chas. P. Penney, formerly of Colin Campbell, Ltd., has been appointed salesmanager of the West Coast Dairy, Ltd., at Stephenville. For some time past Mr. Penney has been acting as salesman for this firm.

EXPRESS TRAINS ARRIVE.—The number of passengers to arrive at Port aux Basques on Saturday was so large that the incoming express had to be made up in two sections. No. 1 section reached the city at 11.30 a.m. to-day bringing over 250 sacks of mail and a large number of passengers. Section No. 2 arrived at 2.15 p.m. with 47 returned soldiers and several passengers; also much baggage. Yesterday's outward express left Bishop's Falls at 3.15 a.m. to-day.

NEWFOUNDLAND CATHEDRAL.—At the Anglican Cathedral last evening, His Lordship the Bishop occupied the pulpit and preached a very impressive and instructive sermon on the Passion of our Lord, basing his discourse on the following texts: "The whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice, saying, blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord." St. Luke, XIX, 37-38. "But they cried saying, Crucify Him. Crucify Him." (Ibid) XXIII, 21.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR AGUATHUNA.—Mr. J. Maxwell, of Aguathuna, Port aux Basques, reached the city this morning's express. Mr. Maxwell speaks in glowing terms of the future prospects of that flourishing settlement. Operations will commence at the time quarries about April the 15th and it is hoped the first shipment will be made by May 1st. Quite a number of new buildings have been erected within the last year. While the town is still in the picture outfit, as he intends opening a movie show in the near future at Aguathuna.

CHINAMEN DETAINED.—Three Chinamen returning from a visit to Hong Kong, are detained at Port aux Basques, owing to the recent outbreak of smallpox on the S. Kyle.

Returned Soldiers Given Big Welcome.

The express with forty-seven returned soldiers and foresters reached the city shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon and were given a right royal reception by the Ladies' Reception Committee, the Prime Minister and a large gathering of citizens. Flags were flying from all the public and business places in the city while the homes of the returning heroes were also bedecked with bunting. Slights were provided by the Ladies of the Committee and the soldiers driven to their homes. Following is a list of the returned veterans: Lieut. Leo C. Murphy, Lieut. G. Watson, Lieut. E. S. Bohann, Lieut. Jack Turner, C. S. M. S. Hussey, Sgt. J. J. Dooley, Sergt. F. Warren, Sergt. R. Ennis, Sergt. J. J. Whelan, Corp. H. J. Good, L. Corp. W. J. Hiscock, L. Corp. W. Thompson, L. Corp. G. G. Phillips, Privates W. Hutchings, W. J. Greene, W. Dooley, F. Cummins, R. Crummett, J. Gottenbult, F. Farmer, F. Murphy, R. Haley, H. Parry, G. Hicks, M. L. Hawker, R. Ryan, G. Spurrell, J. J. Ryan, C. F. Rowan, A. Mercer, D. Carter, C. A. Churchock, L. Taylor, A. J. Snow, G. Lush, S. E. Legge, J. Fisher, J. J. Neville, R. Gosse, A. E. Pike, L. Bonoit, A. Mercer, F. Hayes, A. Adams, Alex. King, John Roper, and Capt. D. Thistle, of the Foresters.

Obituary.

There passed into eternal rest at Clarendville on Saturday afternoon Robert J. Pittman. Deceased was well known in St. John's having been for a long while Supervisor of Debates in the Legislative Council. His services in this connection were a year or so ago rewarded with a pension, when he left the city to reside at Clarendville. Mr. Pittman was very prominent in Methodist Church work and during his residence here was a member of George Street Quarterly Official Board. The remains are being brought to town for interment tomorrow, and the funeral will take place tomorrow, at 2.30 p.m., from No. 11, LeMarchant Road. For a considerable period the late Mr. Pittman was a regular contributor to this paper and in the general sympathy to his surviving relatives the Telegram joins.

Weather Report.

Fog—Wind S. W., moderate breeze, fine and clear; warm.
Flower's Cove — Easterly winds, mild, with snow; large lakes of water along shore.
St. Anthony — Moderate westerly winds, mild; snowing; coast blocked with ice.

Here and There.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A True Fishman. You have omitted to send in your name.

LATEST SEALING NEWS: Batus Johnston & Co., S. S. S. will wrap 4,000 seals stowed; prospecta good; in the main patch.

REID'S BOATS.—The Argyle, Dundee and Home still detained at Placentia on account of ice. The Ethie left Burgeo at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, coming east.

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FROM BERLIN.
BERLIN, via London, Mar. 23.
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BATTLEFRONT DEFENCE UNBROKEN.
LONDON, March 23.
The statement of the British War Office that the troops west of St. Quentin are falling back to prepared positions, indicated that the Germans, although they have broken through the British defensive system, have not pierced the entire British zone of defence. The allusions in the British statement of the defensive system may be only to the battlefront system, behind which other lines have been prepared. If that is the case, the Germans have done little more than repeat what the British did in the battle of the Somme when they pierced the Hindenburg line and captured long stretches of it forcing the Germans to retreat to prepared positions in the rear.

ALL ENGLAND CONFIDENT.
LONDON, To-Day.
The guns in France are distinctly heard in London to-night, and in particular in high places there is a continuous throbbing, and many persons have gone to the houseposts to listen. The Germans continue to use a tremendous number of gas shells. It would cause no surprise if the German fleet attempted to assist the army. An attack on the British coast is not improbable. British civilians are grimly silent but they are united, and after many months of internal conflict they appreciate that they have reached the final stage of the mighty conflict. The British will hold firm.

CONGRATULATES TROOPS.
LONDON, To-Day.
In a telegram dated the 21st, sent the general officers commanding the Third and Fifth British Armies, the Field Marshal, Commander-in-Chief,

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Something for Easter

FOR THE WOMEN
Blouses in Lawn, Voile and Silk from95c. up
SHIRTS from \$2.95 up
CAMISOLES from30c. up
UNDERSKIRTS, White & Colored.
SWEATER COATS from . \$3.75 up
(Assorted colors.)
DRESSING GOWNS & JACKETS.
HOUSE DRESSES,
OVERALL APRONS,
TEA APRONS,
HOUSEMAIDS' APRONS,
CORSETS, HOSE, Etc., Etc.

FOR THE MEN
SHIRTS in White & Fancy Striped,
PRESIDENT BRACES.
SWEATER COATS from . \$3.55 up
PANTS from \$2.25 up
WORK SHIRTS, OVERALLS,
RUBBERS,
also a few CAPS, Etc.

CHILDREN.
Hose, Gloves, Underwear, Feeders,
Bonnets, Middy Blouses, Misses Corsets
Waists, Infants' Knitted Saques,
Overalls, Dresses, etc., etc.

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