

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 310.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1918.

PRICE: TWO CENTS

German Assault Fails Bombardment is Over

London, March 24—The great German assault has failed. Tonight, although in certain sections of the front their troops hold positions some miles in advance of what formed their front line on Thursday, the back of their attack is broken. They have failed in reaching their objectives, and the British army without calling upon its reserves has stemmed the flood of the most violent attack thus far delivered since the beginning of the war.

Only the ordinary reserves attached to each army corps have been called up and there are behind the British lines, now in position as supports for any eventuality more than a million fighting men ready to take their places at whatever point their assistance may be required. In military circles here there is a feeling that this reserve army may be called upon later to aid in the expected counter-attack if such a course should be decided upon by the supreme command.

Although the attack which continues with great fury has been directed chiefly against the British lines, it has evidently induced greater activity along other fronts, and the French and Canadians have been kept busy in carrying out important raids or in repelling attacks.

The bombardment of Paris by long range guns ceased this afternoon. It was a spectacular affair but accomplished little of real importance. It has, however, stirred the people of Paris to a more intense desire to repay the Germans in their own coin.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT INFORMS THE PEOPLE OF PARIS CITY IS NOT IN DANGER OF NEAR-BY BOMBARDMENT

Official Notice Given to Parisians That Bombardment of City Was Over at 3.30 o'clock—Subways and Tramways Resumed Shortly After Noon and Streets Filled with People as is Usual on Sunday Afternoon—Public Warned Against Pessimistic Reports That Germans Have Broken Through French Front—Enemy Unable to Bombard Paris from Close By—Enemy May Be Using Two Long Distance Guns.

Paris, Mar. 24—Today's bombardment seems to be over as this despatch is sent, no shell explosions have been heard for more than an hour from the Associated Press office. The subways and tramways began running again before noon today and in the afternoon the streets were in a still greater state of animation.

Paris, Mar. 24—A semi-official note issued today warns the public against pessimistic reports that the Germans have broken through the front and thus are able to bombard Paris from close by. "The French front is intact, any assertion to the contrary is a lie," the note reads.

Paris, Mar. 24—It is believed in military circles that the Germans are using two long distance guns against Paris.

"The all clear warning was sounded at 3.30 o'clock, showing that the bombardment was over."

SOME CAPTURED GERMAN GUNS WERE BROUGHT FROM BALKANS

Huns Lost Heavily in Attempting to Cross Somme by Means of Four Bridges—All Roads in Rear of German Advance Blocked by Columns of Troops, Guns and Transport Vehicles.

London, Mar. 24—Reuter's correspondent at headquarters telegraphs: The correspondent reports that among the captured machine guns are some that were identified as having been used in the Balkans last year.

The Germans made attempts on Friday night to cross the Somme by means of four bridges, the attempts, however, were detected and frustrated with loss by the British artillery fire, his message states.

All the roads in the rear of the German advance, the despatch continues, are blocked by columns of troops, guns and transport vehicles, furnishing targets upon which the British artillery is making deadly play. Rough estimate of the casualties inflicted vary between thirty and fifty per cent. of all the enemy divisions, so far identified.

"I give these figures for what they are worth," the correspondent adds. "They probably are based mainly on statements made by prisoners."

Washington, March 24—Violent fighting between the British and Germans was continuing at 2.30 o'clock this morning between Croisilles and Peruisier, an official despatch from Paris today announced. The Germans are using ninety-seven divisions of troops and their losses are heavy. The British resistance is declared to be efficient.

THE AMERICAN GUNS HIT ENEMY HARD

Enemy Drops More Than Six Hundred Mustard Gas Shells into Town Within the United States Lines.

With the American Army in France, Mar. 24—A patrol of four Americans early this morning crawled nearly a mile, approached a German listening post from the rear and jumped on the German, throttling him before he had a chance to make an outcry. They returned to their line as quietly as they went, bringing their prisoner with them. He was put through an examination by the intelligence officers.

The American guns retaliated heavily against the Germans, who again last night dropped more than 600 mustard gas shells into a certain town within the American lines. There was no wind and the gas remained for hours. The American artillery work was very accurate.

HUN AIRPLANE DROPS

Havre, March 24—A German Gotha airplane damaged by artillery fire, was forced to descend back of the Belgian lines Thursday evening. The three men in the crew, two officers and a corporal, were made prisoners.

BERLIN, AS USUAL, CLAIMS VICTORY

German War Office States British Third and Fourth Armies and Parts of French and American Reserves Have Been Beaten.

Berlin, March 24—(British Admiralty per wireless press)—Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and Lafore is claimed for the German army in today's headquarters statement. The British third and fourth armies and parts of French and American reserves which had been brought up, are declared to have been beaten and to have been repulsed with the heaviest losses on the line from Bapaume to Bouchevillers as well as Chauny.

The text of the statement reads: "Western theatre: The battle near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and Lafore, has been won. The British third and fourth armies and portions of Franco-American reserves, who had been brought up, were beaten, and on the line of Bapaume-Bouchavesnes and behind the Somme between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny, were repulsed with the heaviest losses."

WASHINGTON IS IGNORANT OF U. S. TROOPS IN ACTION

Possible, However, That American Engineers in Cambrai Sector Were Caught in Some Sudden Movement.

Washington, March 24—Nothing has been received here to indicate that American regiments were brought into the fighting, as referred to in the Berlin despatches. If any American troops participated officials thought it would be found they were American engineers, caught in some sudden movement as they were at Cambrai.

BRITISH FORCES CONGRATULATED

Field Marshal Haig Sends Cheering Message To Troops of Third and Fifth Armies.

London, March 24—The following telegram dated March 21st, has been sent to the general officers commanding the Third and Fifth British armies:

TEUTONS CLAIM TO HAVE CAPTURED A TOTAL OF 30,000

Berlin States Towns of Ham and Peronne Have Fallen — Germans Claim to Have Taken Six Hundred Guns.

London, March 24—The number of prisoners captured by the Germans now number 30,000, and the number of guns 600, the German official statement says today.

French, English and American regiments, which were brought up from southwest for a counter-attack, were thrown back on Chauny, the official statement adds. Ham and Peronne have fallen, the German official statement says, which was received here by wireless.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE DATED LONG AGO

Berlin Telegraph Says Big Drive Began Exactly at the Time Set, Even to the Hour

Amsterdam, March 24—The Berlin Telegraph says that when Field Marshal Von Hindenburg received the first telegram reporting on the offensive he forwarded to Emperor William: "Well, your Majesty, I think we may be well pleased with this initial success."

The newspaper adds that the date for the offensive was fixed long ago, and began at exactly the time set, even to the hour.

BRITISH DEFENDING THEMSELVES WITH BRAVERY, BERLIN

Vossische Zeitung is of Opinion British Command Did Not Expect Attack So Soon.

London, March 24—The Berlin Vossische Zeitung's war correspondent telegraphing from the neighborhood of the Oise, is quoted by the Central News correspondent at Amsterdam as saying:

"All our movements have taken place with miraculous exactitude according to the plans of the master who organized the attack. The English are defending themselves bravely, but the British command was not equal to the attack which although doubtless foreseen probably was not expected so early."

The Field Marshal commanding-in-chief, sends his congratulations to the troops of your army on their splendid defence today. He relies upon their continued steadfastness and valor to crush this new attack and with it the enemy's last hope of success."

LAST EDITION MONSTER TEUTONIC SIEGE GUN OF AUSTRIAN MAKE

Shell May Be Sort of Aerial Torpedo Driven by Propellers — Twenty-Four Shots in All Fired from 7.20 a. m. to 3 p. m. Yesterday, a Shell Dropping Every Twenty Minutes with Monotonous Regularity.

Paris, Mar. 24—The newspaper Le Journal in its editorial regarding the big gun says that the piece of 240 millimetres calibre is of Austrian make. It is a very delicate piece of machinery which must be handled by expert mathematicians and gunners, the newspaper adds, as the loading and pointing is a difficult task. It is declared that each shot costs about \$4,000.

This is a new conception of our enemies, the newspaper comments.

The ordnance experts were not ready last night to commit themselves as to whether the shell was a sort of aerial torpedo driven by propellers, whether an inner projectile contained in the original shell is released by an explosion when the shell has travelled a certain distance from the gun, or whether the original projectile itself reaches its destination, propelled perhaps by an explosive of a force hitherto unknown.

In yesterday's bombardment twenty-four shots in all were fired from 7.20 a. m. to three o'clock p. m., a shell dropping every twenty minutes with monotonous regularity. The bombardment presented all the characteristics of a bombardment by heavy artillery, there being regular intervals between the shots and the shells falling within a restricted area. Enemy aviators, who flew high over the city during the early hours of the bombardment regulated the firing.

Professor Paul Painleve, former premier and president of the Academy of Science, told the Excelsior that by using tungsten in the fabrication of the projectile, the tungsten shells would be of about half the diameter of steel shells of an even weight, and that therefore the atmospheric resistance would be less, this accounting for the extremely long range. He also touched upon the possibility of a propeller being employed on the projectile.

Alfred Capus, in the Figaro, alludes to the making of the gun as a great mechanical feat, but points that as a military factor the weapon is entirely inefficacious. The Petit Parisien comments upon the bombardment as an extremely minor incident as compared with the gigantic battle in progress on the British front.

A FRENCH INVENTION?

Le Petit Journal says that Jules Verne had foreseen this gun, and it declares that moreover it is a French invention. "More than a year ago, it adds, we discovered the secret of firing our cannon more than 100 kilometres. The secret lies in the greater suppression of the atmospheric resistance."

The Echo De Paris declares the bombardment is designed to give the impression that Paris is within the range of the German guns.

"It is a political cannon," the newspaper says.

Premier Clemenceau's newspaper L'Homme Libre says that the password of the hour is confidence. Germany, it declares, has wished to make it a complete offensive on all fronts—the land, water and air fronts, as well as the front of the rear, we are facing an enemy who wished to end it as soon as possible. That ends us. Every shell that falls into Paris drives deeper into us the confidence in an ultimate victory.

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Will Hun Fleet Come? Germans Lose 240,000

Washington, Sunday, March 24, (Special to The Standard)—It is announced here that from information received from London this afternoon the German casualty list up till noon today was not less than two hundred and forty thousand of all ranks. The British losses for the same period of time are placed at less than half that number, the latest estimates giving from ninety-five to one hundred and ten thousand.

The hospital service despite the tremendous demands made upon it is standing up well. Wounded men from the front are under treatment in English hospitals within five hours of the time of receiving their wounds.

There is prevalent here a strong feeling that the German navy will at last attempt an attack. All preparations have been made for such an eventuality, and should the German fleet be anxious to show itself it will find Britain's navy fully prepared.

GERMANS HAVE SHOT THEIR BOLT BRITISH LINES GENERALLY HELD AND HUNS NOW BEING REPULSED

Attacking Over Fifty Mile Front Germans Have Bent Lines in one or two Places but Retirements Were Well Carried Out and Enemy Progress is Stopped, While at Many Points Our Troops Are Winning.

Special to The Standard.

Washington, Sunday, Mar. 24—The decisive hour of the great war has been reached, in the opinion of the best observers, and while the German army has attained a measure of success in the first furious assault, there remains the supreme confidence which has characterized the allied forces from the start. This assault has accomplished nothing more than had previously been discounted nor have the Germans attained anything like the objective which they hoped would meet their long advertised drive.

Attacking over a frontage of more than fifty miles they have succeeded in bending back portions of the British line and have made an advance of from eight to eleven miles through the British advanced positions. The British army, realizing that the fury of an assault such as this would mean a temporary retirement at some point or other, had made plans which were carried out with the regularity of clockwork. They retired in perfect order to prepared positions, and there, for the past thirty-six hours, they have resisted with apparently unconquerable determination the heaviest pressure that can be brought against them. In the face of this rapidly changing battlefield all that can now be said is that nothing has occurred which had not previously been discounted, that the lines generally are holding firm, and that the Germans in the face of the tremendous losses already sustained and their failure to accomplish their objectives will not be in a position to renew the attack with any greater energy than has already been displayed.

Advices from London and Paris are to the effect that the people of those cities are not at all disturbed over the situation but maintain the most complete confidence in the ability of their armies to inflict, when the time for the great counter thrust comes, a crushing defeat on the German forces.

The announcement that the location of the big gun which is shelling the suburbs of Paris has been discovered arouses only curiosity. It is still felt by many that there remains in this incident a mystery which will be revealed in time.

WASHINGTON CONFIDENT HUN RUSH WILL BE STOPPED

Special to The Standard.

Washington, March 24.—While the intense interest prevails here in the gigantic struggle on the west, the trust, confidence remains unshaken that the German thrust will be eventually repulsed. On all sides confidence is expressed at the skill with which the British met the heaviest shock ever hurled at an army.

Even should the British be forced further to regroup their lines, the impetus of the German blow must diminish from now on, military experts believe, and counter-strokes on a major scale are then expected. The war department has cabled General Pershing, the American commander of the exact situation on the British battle front.

COUNTER-ATTACKS BY BRITISH DRIVE GERMAN TROOPS BACK

Near Croiselles Fighting is Very Severe — Huns Capture a Village But Are Driven Out by Our Troops—Increasing Losses to the Enemy.

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 24—The Germans are pressing their attack hard on the right flank of the British near Ham, while on the northern end of the battle line desperate fighting has been going on since yesterday about Mory, which has changed hands several times.

It is reported that some of the enemy infantry pushed down across the Somme canal and drove forward against prepared positions to which the British had retired.

German cavalry was seen behind the advancing German infantry, and there was small doubt that the attacking forces intended to make a supreme effort to rupture the British line in this sector, which is near the junction of the French and British lines.

The British strategical withdrawal along the battlefield to better positions has been carried out deliberately and in accordance with the plan, there saving the lives of British troops, while the attacking forces have been advancing under increasing difficulties with huge loss of life.

About Mory the battle has been especially fierce, and when the story of the British defense can be read it will be a record of a magnificent stand. The fighting here began yesterday morning, when the Germans attacked with a superior number of troops.

The British held on during the day, but last evening the enemy gained a foothold in the village after a sanguinary struggle at close quarters.

The Germans advanced for this new attack from Croiselles and for hours were held off by a company of British machine gunners who were stationed on high ground and swept the enemy ranks with a grilling fire.

The British organized a counter-attack as soon as the Germans entered the village and pushed the enemy back.

AMERICAN GUNNERS USING GAS SHELLS

Have Done Good Work Against German Batteries in Rear of Toul Cemetery.

With the American Army in France—Hundreds of gas shells were fired by the American artillery on the Toul sector into the village of St. Bausan. The American observers reported that the work of the artillery was effective. At the same time high explosive shells were fired into the town against batteries in the rear of its cemetery and into Sonnard Wood, where there were other enemy guns.

GERMANS FAILED TO ATTAIN OBJECTIVES

First Phase of the Assault Has Fallen Far Short of What Was Arranged by Their Plans.

London, Mar. 24—Copies of the German plan of offensive taken from prisoners, according to Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters, show that the enemy objectives were as follows: First—Average penetration, along the whole front of attack, eight kilometres. Second—Twelve kilometres, and on third, beyond which the

4.15 EDITION PARIS CONTINUES CALM DESPITE BOMBARDMENT FROM MONSTER GUN AT DISTANCE OF SEVENTY MILES

BRITISH HOLD SOMME LINE

London, March 24.—British troops are holding the line of the Somme river to Peronne. Small enemy parties, which attempted to cross the river in the neighborhood of Pargny, were driven back.

Northward from the Somme, at Peronne, the British troops are holding their positions after beating off a number of attacks during last night.

AMERICANS ALSO SHELLING HUNS

Special to The Standard.

With the American Army in France, Mar. 24—An enemy observation balloon near Montez broke from its moorings this morning and floated toward the American lines. The artillery brought it down in No Man's Land and then completely destroyed it, firing about one hundred shots.

The American artillerymen continue shelling of the German first lines and communicating trenches.

GERMANS REPULSED NEAR JUVINCOURT

Special to The Standard
Paris, Mar. 24—German troops after a violent bombardment, undertook a surprise attack to the south of Juvincourt, but quite without success.

There has been fairly spirited artillery fighting in the region of Lepretre Wood, in the Vosges, not far from Lafontenelle, and at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf.

JAPS WANT TO SEND HALF MILLION MEN

Special to The Standard.
London, March 24.—A despatch from Tien Tsin says that the Japanese University professors are conducting a campaign in favor of sending half a million troops as far as Irkutsk into Siberia to check the German ambitions in the far east before it is too late.

London, March 24.—"Nothing we have heard up to the present would lead me to think that anything has happened which could not have been expected. There is no reason to come to the conclusion that things are looking bad. General Sir Horace Lockwood-Smith-Dorrien says in an interview with the Weekly Despatch."

scheme does not appear to be carried, twenty kilometres. The success attained thus far falls much short of these objectives, the despatch states.

First Shock of New German Method Has Now Passed and French are Supremely Confident of Ultimate Allied Victory—Germany's Great Cannon Located in Forest of St. Gobain, East of Laon.

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD.

Bulletin—Paris—The German "monster cannon" which has been located in the Forest of St. Gobain, west of Laon, is exactly 122 kilometres (approximately 76 miles) from the Paris city hall.

The gun, says the Matin, is established near Anzy, in St. Gobain Forest. This would place it somewhere further south in the wooded area and estimates the distance at about 70 miles from Paris.

Paris, March 24.—Palm Sunday in Paris was ushered in by the loud explosion of one of the ten-inch shells fired by the Germans from their new gun more than 70 miles distant, at 6.55 o'clock this morning. The alarm was sounded immediately. Many people took shelter, but larger numbers appeared in the streets on the way to the churches, which were almost as crowded as usual, the women, who sell palm leaves, doing their customary thriving business.

The shells arrived at regular intervals of twenty minutes at first. The detonations seemed louder, amid the ordinary Sunday calm, than yesterday but they seemed to have lost their power to disturb the population, which refused to be distracted from its Sunday habits to any great extent.

In the absence of means of transportation, a great many persons were seen on the streets leading to the centre of the city walking to keep their appointments.

The rapidity of the fire increased after the first few shells landed, explosions following each other every fifteen minutes on the average. Some of the shots came after an interval of only 12 minutes.

Paris, March 24.—The comments of the French press this morning were about evenly divided between the big gun which is bombarding the city from back of the German lines and the terrific battle raging on the British front. The tone of the comment on the bombardment is one of astonishment at the feasibility of the performance, while as to the battle, the favorable ending of it is confidently expected.

The newspapers do not conceal their admiration for the mechanical feat of the Germans in penetrating their new weapon, but speak passionately of the useless barbarity of the bombardment. The Matin says it is consoling to note that the number of victims is small, but it asks for reprisals on German cities.

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BRITISH HOLDING LINE; 160,000 GERMANS DEAD

New York, Sunday Morning—Latest advices from the war front are to the effect that the British troops have taken up new lines and are now holding the attacking Huns. New York Sunday morning papers contain statements to the effect that the German casualties are 160,000 while the British losses are estimated at 90,000. The frightful combat is raging incessantly and Emperor William is in supreme command of his troops and is directing the operations. Berlin claims 25,000 prisoners and has started a song of victory but best indications are that the exultation is premature. The Entente generals are confident and all signs point to this offensive as the decisive effort of the war.

New York, Sunday Morning—The main German attack is launched at the point where the French troops join the British. Prussian cavalry is being massed to burst through the lines if the breach is opened wide enough but latest word is that this has not been accomplished. The battle is the most sanguinary of the war.

BRITISH NOW ON NEW LINE AND HEAVILY ENGAGING THE HUNS

Haig's Saturday Night Report Is More Encouraging—Germans Repulse With Great Slaughter Near Jussy—British Troops Fight With Great Gallantry.

Special to The Standard.

London, Mar. 24—The battle is continuing with the greatest intensity on the whole front south of the Scarpe river. Field Marshal Haig's report last night announces:

"South and west of St. Quentin our troops have taken up their new positions and we are heavily engaged with the enemy.

"During the night strong hostile attacks in the neighborhood of Jussy, (south of St. Quentin), were repulsed with great losses 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. The 19th and 9th divisions distinguished themselves by the valor of their defense. 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."

NINETY GERMAN DIVISIONS HURLED AGAINST BRITISH

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 23, 11 a.m.—(By the Associated Press)—The British, gallantly fighting, are still presenting a solid front to the fiercely attacking Germans, although the defensive troops have withdrawn their lines in certain places for strategic reasons. All day yesterday and much of last night the conflict continued to rage with increasing violence, as fresh German divisions were hurled into the fray in an attempt to smash through the British defenses. More intense fighting is expected. The operation is so vast and is changing with such kaleidoscopic rapidity as the line surges backward and forward that it is impossible to visualize the scene sufficiently to give a connected and accurate account of it at present.

Forty-nine German divisions have been identified thus far on the battlefield and prisoners have been taken from eighteen of them. Estimates place the number of German divisions engaged as high as ninety, but it is impossible to say whether this is accurate. Throughout the night the battle front extended southward and it was reported this morning that the French army was now engaged.

THE BRITISH HAVE FORCED THE JORDAN

Special to The Standard.

London, March 23 — The British in Palestine have forced a passage of the River Jordan, bridged the stream and established themselves on the east bank. They afterwards advanced eastward against considerable opposition and are continuing their operations according to the official report announcing the crossing.

LONDON HEARS BIG GUNS

London, Mar. 24—The guns in France are distinctly heard in London. Particularly in high places there is a continuous throbbing. Many persons have gone to house tops to listen.

BRITISH AT ST. QUENTIN FALL BACK TO NEW LINE

Retirement is Made to Prepared Positions and It Does Not Indicate Material German Success—Heavy Fighting All Along Western Front.

Special to The Standard.

London, March 24—Powerful enemy attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery have broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, the war office announces. The British troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding the positions.

The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions further west. Very heavy fighting with fresh enemy forces is in progress. The war office states that there are prepared positions behind the British to which they are falling back.

OUR AIRMEN BOMB HUNS

British Flyers Work Havoc on German Troops and Ammunition Depots.

Special to The Standard.

London, March 24—An official statement of the aerial operations issued tonight says:

A thick morning mist on Friday prevented our airplanes from leaving the ground during the early part of the day. When the mist cleared there was much activity in the air on our battlefield. The enemy's low flying machines were particularly accurate, engaging our forward groups with machine guns.

The enemy's massed troops again offered good targets for our low flying airplanes. The locations and range of bodies of hostile troops and transport were reported to our artillery and successfully engaged.

Eight and a half tons of bombs were dropped on hostile railway stations in the rear of the battlefield and also on the enemy's billets and high velocity guns, troops and transport.

The statement follows:

"Heavy fighting continued until late hours last night on the whole battlefield. During the afternoon powerful hostile attacks delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery broke through our defensive west of St. Quentin.

"Our troops on this part of the battlefield are falling back in good order across the devastated area to prepared positions further west. Our troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding the positions. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is in progress."

and Huns.

PARIS UNDER BOMBARDMENT MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS WITH GERMANY'S HEAVIEST ARTILLERY

New York Hears That Guns Are 74 Miles Away From The French Capital Though This Statement is Disbelieved—Official Statement From Paris However Confirms Bombardment Story—Evidently No Breach of British Lines Above Paris.

New York, Mar. 23—The New York Sunday morning special editions contain special despatches to the effect that Paris is being bombarded at a distance of seventy-four miles and that mysterious cannon are located twelve kilometers behind the German front.

Special to The Standard.

Paris, Mar. 23—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long range guns since eight o'clock this morning, shells of 240 millimetres have been reaching the capital and suburbs at intervals of a quarter of an hour, killing about ten persons and wounding about fifteen. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is 100 kilometres (sixty-two miles).

The announcement that Paris was being bombarded was made officially this afternoon.

Measures for counter attacking the enemy's cannon are under execution.

The official announcement that Paris is being bombarded must remain unexplained until further details have been received. The statement in the despatch that the shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometres indicates that there has been no breach in the battle line above Paris such as would permit of bringing up guns to within what has been previously regarded as the extreme range of heavy pieces. Unless the Germans have some new invention no such range as sixty miles is conceivable. The most powerful guns in action heretofore have been able to hurl the projectile only twenty miles or thereabouts.

The calibre of the shells reaching Paris, 240 millimetres, is equivalent to about 9 1/2 inches. The heavy German siege pieces fire 17-inch shells.

Paris had been under the bombardment for about hours at the time the foregoing despatch was filed at 4.15 p.m. Saturday.

Special to The Standard.

Paris, Mar. 23—The Germans launched an attack on the French lines in the Woivre district last night which was dispersed by the French fire. The Germans suffered appreciable losses and left some prisoners in the hands of the French.

Berlin, March 23—An official statement from German headquarters says: "The first stage of the great battle is ended. We have won the engagements near Monchy, C ambray, St. Quentin and La Fere. A considerable part of the English army is beaten. We are fighting approximately on a line northeast of Baginne, Peronne and Huns."

Special to The Standard

London, Mar. 24—Our aircraft work during the battle has been most successful. The fighting in the air has been very heavy, almost all the combats taking place between Arras and St. Quentin.

Twenty-seven enemy machines were brought down and twenty were driven down out of control. Two hostile machines were shot down in our lines by anti-aircraft guns, and another by the infantry. Eight of our machines are missing.

During the night our squadrons dropped over fourteen tons of bombs on the hostile billets, ammunition dumps and areas in which the enemy's attacking troops were concentrated. All our machines returned.