

BRITISH DRIVE BACK GERMAN FORCES WHICH HAD CROSSED SOMME YESTERDAY

Repulsed the Powerful Attacks Made By the Germans Yesterday Afternoon Northward of Bapaume.

FRESH ATTACKS BY THE GERMANS Battle Continues With Great Violence on Whole Front.—Germans Driven Back With Great Loss.

(By The Associated Press) March 25.—Fresh attacks by the Germans have developed northward and southward of Bapaume, the British repulsed the powerful attacks yesterday evening northward of Bapaume.

The British drove back to the east of the Somme bodies of German which had crossed the river between Liourt and Brire, south of Peronne.

The withdrawal of the British along the battle front in France was long planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This movement comes from the British at through the Associated Press correspondent, who describes the operation of the British army as a masterpiece of withdrawal, made possible by gallant troops in the front lines, who checked the advance of the Germans, while the artillery, machine gun and rifle work appaling slaughter among the masses of German infantry as they moved forward, thus enabling the body of the British to fall back liberally and without confusion.

This army, it is declared, has been moved and up to the present very counterattacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the Germans' newly held positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance has meant the bringing up of supplies to the front, and the difficulty and uncertainty of the British strategy, as described, show the beginning of the attack, is to let the enemy, so long as he may, wear himself out in a powerful defense.

Both British and French forces, where their lines meet, south of St. Quentin, are watching events with optimistic eyes.

GERMANS CLAIM TO HAVE TAKEN THREE TOWNS

Peronne, Ham and Chauny Reported to Have Fallen.

(By The Associated Press) March 24. (Via London, British Admiralty, per Wireless Press) The Germans have captured Peronne, Ham and Chauny, and defeated British and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter-attack on Chauny, according to the war office statement today.

The statement adds that more than 100 prisoners have been captured in Chauny in the battle which has been fought near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and parts of Franco-American forces are declared to have been repulsed the heaviest loss on the Somme, between the Somme and Ham, as well as at Chauny.

THE COTTON MARKET.

Wholesale War News and Weakness in Liverpool Causes Decline.

CALM OVER HUN DRIVE.

Has Earmarks of Failure in End, Officials Here Say.

Albert W. Fox in Washington Post. The result of the first stupendous German thrust against the allies' line can now be recorded with some degree of accuracy. It has had all the boasted power that the Germans said they would put in the blow, but it has accomplished nothing to upset the calm confidence which reigns here in official and military circles. As a spectacular military drive it has been a temporary success. As an achievement likely to affect the final military decision it has already all the earmarks of an ultimate failure.

The Germans, by sheer weight of massed man power and artillery, have accomplished the following results: They have bent the British line back, particularly over a 17-mile stretch, which has enabled them to establish a new line from Bapaume via Peronne to Ham, an average distance of 6 miles nearer the heart of France. They report 25,000 prisoners and 400 guns captured.

They are in a position to advise their military prowess throughout the central powers for the encouragement of their own peoples. They have bought the terrain won morale of their troops and doubtless given them that magic military momentum which always goes with any forward movement or success. With these advantages ceded temporarily to Germany, the debt side of their first thrust is described by military men here as follows:

They have bought the terrain won at a price in lives which sound military strategy regards as absolutely prohibitive, for it is understood that the British have shot away tens of thousands from the masses of men used to press forward. The terrain won is over devastated areas and ruined villages and is valueless from the military standpoint unless it can be made the stepping stone for further advance. The new positions of the Germans are exposed to counter attacks regarded as certain to inflict further heavy toll on the invaders.

The attack has if anything strengthened the dogged fighting spirit of the British and demonstrated the unbroken morale of the allies now eagerly awaiting their chance to strike back. Military men say that the capture of 5,000 prisoners is insignificant compared to the scope of the effort and sacrifice made. The Germans themselves lost more than 50,000 prisoners to the allies in their retreat on the Somme. The undoubted hope of the German high command was to break down the resistance and the morale of the British by this unprecedented drive, made without thought of losses.

The reported presence of the Kaiser and all other indications are that the Germans hoped to smash all resistance so decisively that the road would be open to them for their major plans—either a drive on Paris or toward the channel ports. The momentum of their effort has apparently carried them a scant six miles, and military experts explain, the first shock in a blow of this kind is almost invariably the greatest.

MRS. CLUIS' VISIT HERE. Inspected Red Cross Work Room and Was Much Pleased.

Mrs. V. M. Cluis, head of women's work in the southern division of the Red Cross, inspected the Concord work room last week. She was very much pleased with the work, but very much surprised at the short hours our chapter works on surgical dressings. She said: "In view of the great sacrifice made by the men for whom we are working, an dthe great need of the articles we are making, does four short hours a week seem long enough?"

On her recommendation the surgical dressings work room will be open four days a week beginning with Tuesday afternoon, from 2 to 5 o'clock. The quality of the work done by one chapter is perfect as the report from headquarters show. On the last three boxes sent in the following remarks have been sent back to us: On a box of pajamas, "splendid;" on another box of pajamas, "this lot was standard, thank you for it," and on a box of surgical dressings, "Excellent, thank you." With such a record the need of our chapter is not more perfect work, but more work and more people to work.

GERMANS NOW STANDING TO NORTH OF THE SOMME

AMERICAN ARTILLERY SHELLS EFFECTIVELY

Many of the American Shells Being Thrown Have Fallen in the German Trenches, It is Announced.

GERMANS VIRTUALLY ABANDON ONE PLACE Considerable Activity on the Toul Front.—Americans Shell Towns of St. Bauffant and Boqueteau.

(By The Associated Press) With the American Army in France, March 25.—On the Toul front there was considerable activity during the night. American guns heavily shelled the German front line positions. Enemy batteries replied using many gas shells. Later photographs were taken from airplanes of the damage inflicted by Americans.

AMERICAN ARTILLERY SHELLS EFFECTIVELY Many of the Shells Fell in German Trenches.

(By The Associated Press) With the American Army in France, Sunday March 24.—The American artillery on the Toul sector continued today to shell effectively the enemy first line and communication trenches, the town of St. Bauffant and billets and dumps north of Boqueteau. Many of the American shells have fallen in the German trenches, and the first two lines in at least one place have been virtually abandoned.

AMERICAN ENGINEERS IN THROES OF CONFLICT A Further Advance By the Germans Late Yesterday is Recorded.

(By The Associated Press) British Army Headquarters in France. (By The Associated Press.) March 25.—A further advance late yesterday by the Germans at some points along the battle front is recorded. American engineers have again been in the throes of a fierce conflict in which they have done excellent work in transportation.

GERMANS BOMBARD TOWN IN AMERICAN LINES Many Gas Shells and Some High Explosives Fall on American Positions.

(By The Associated Press) With the American Army in France, Sunday March 24.—For the third successive day, the German artillery today bombarded heavily with gas shells a certain town within the American lines. Today's bombardment was made in two periods each a half hour in length. Many gas shells and a few high explosive shells fell on the American positions.

AMBASSADOR REPORTS BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS Report Made by American Ambassador to State Department.

(By The Associated Press) Washington, March 25.—Ambassador Sharpe, in Paris, reported to the State Department today the bombardment of Paris at long range by the Germans. He forwarded the official statement of the French government in which the fact was announced to the public.

GERMANS LOSING 100,000 MEN A DAY

Deductions Made By Members of Allied Military Missions From the Nature of Fighting on West Front.

ALLIED LOSSES ARE FAR LESS Figures Obtained from Number of Troops Employed And Strength of the Allied Resistance.

(By The Associated Press) Washington, March 25.—Members of the allied military missions said today that in the nature of the fighting on the west front the Germans must be losing at least 100,000 men a day. They made this deduction from the number of troops they are employing and the strength of the allied resistance. The allied losses, it was declared, would be far less than those of the Germans, because they are fighting on the defensive.

GERMANS CANNOT BREAK THROUGH BRITISH DEFENSE Four Days of Great Offensive Has Not Brought Decision for Attackers.

(By The Associated Press) Persistent attacks with strong forces of infantry and lavish use of artillery have not enabled the Germans to break through the British defense and after four days the great offensive blow in northern France has not yet brought a decision from the attackers. Heavy fighting is in progress around Bapaume, near Peronne, and where British and French fronts join.

Field Marshal Haig's withdrawal, previously planned in case of heavy enemy attack has been executed in a manner described as masterly, and great credit for its success is given to the small units which, sometimes outnumbered eight or nine to one, clung to their posts, and impeded the German advance. The British have made several counterattacks but every one attempted has been successful. The British efforts are centered on withdrawing as the occasion requires and permitting the enemy to wear himself out before the British defense. Sunday the fighting forces in the north reached the old battlefield of the Somme, from which the Germans retreated a year ago. Again Bapaume and Peronne are the center of the most bitter fighting. Bapaume is the key to the position between Arras and Albert and Berlin reports that a "gigantic struggle" is being made for its possession.

The greatest danger point at present seems to be where the Germans apparently have driven through a great width of the region they devastated in retreating in 1917, as the Paris statement today reports heavy fighting in the region of Noyon. The town itself is some ten miles to the west of Cauchy in the region of which Berlin yesterday reported the repulse of the Franco-American reserves, but the German advance probably has been met considerably short of Noyon.

The wedge driven into the allied line is evidently a deep one, however, as the French troops are reported by Paris to be contesting for the heights to the north of the Oise, with important German forces. The Oise on this part runs south of Noyon.

The capture of Peronne is claimed by the Germans but heavy fighting is taking place north of it, and south along the Somme river. Between Bapaume and Peronne the Germans have reached the Transloy-Comblies-Maurepas line, where they are held up by the British. On the north end of the great battle line where sanguinary struggle has not halted for many hours, the Germans have reached Chauny an important point on the Oise river, southwest of LaFere. Here, however, their advance has not been so great as directly west of St. Quentin where they have progressed more than ten miles. The British and French lines meet near Chauny, and the French lines along the Chemin des Dames, and east toward Rheims would be menaced if the Germans advanced as far as Compeigne on the road to Paris. But Compeigne is a good 20 miles southwest of Chauny.

SECRETARY BAKER ARRIVES IN LONDON Crosses Channel After Visiting King of Belgium.

(By The Associated Press) London, March 25.—Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, visited King Albert of Belgium and the Belgian front yesterday. Secretary Baker arrived in London from Calais at 5 p. m. He was accompanied by Maj. Frederick Palmer. The secretary was met by Ambassador Page, Gen. Biddle and Bartlett and by Col. Lord Duncannon, representing the British war office. Mr. Baker drove to the house of Ambassador Page, whose guest he will be during his stay in London.

FIELD MARSHAL HAIG IS CONGRATULATED BY PRES. WILSON ON ST AND AGAINST GERMANS

STOCKS BREAK TODAY. Further Heavy Selling Impelled By the War News.

(By The Associated Press) New York, March 25.—Stocks broke from 1 to 3 points at the opening of the market today on further heavy selling, impelled by the war news. The weakest issues again included equipments or war shares, and special industrials.

BRITISH COUNTER-ATTACKING Between Mesles and Ham.—French Also in Action.

(By The Associated Press) London, March 25.—The British this morning were counter attacking between Mesles and Ham. Reuters correspondent at British Headquarters, reported. The French also were in action. North of Bapaume, he states, the Germans were attacking a considerable force at dawn, but did not get through the British barrage.

KAISER PLAYING LAST CARD War Will End if Germany Falls Short of Complete Victory.

(By The Associated Press) London, March 25.—While clouds of uncertainty obscured the details of the world's greatest battle, the guns of which are heard in London tonight, there is a measure of relief felt that Germany has finally showed her hand. The purpose and method of her long-talked-of blow are now plain. Hindenburg's objective is undoubtedly the channel ports, but he purposes to take the first step toward them by breaking through the allies' line near the junction of the French and British armies. The attack thus far has shown no new strategy, but appears to be simply a colossal blow with masses of guns and men hitherto never used together on any battlefield. There is no surprise that the British line has been forced back. Lines of defense have been before all great offensives in this war. What the British people look to the army for is that it shall not break.

With usual caution, the German official reports of the first day's fighting did not reveal to their own people the extent or importance of their effort. Only when a partial success had been recorded was Emperor William designated as commander-in-chief, and the crown prince mentioned. "Serious, but not alarming," sums up the reception by London of today's news from the western front. It is pointed out that in battles of such dimensions the attacking forces, by the employment of troops regardless of sacrifices, are nearly always enabled to force first line positions. The Evening News in its comment on the situation refers to the failure of the British report to say anything about prisoners, and adds: "In the matter of figures, our opponents have been notoriously inexact. The military expert of the Westminster Gazette says that the Germans began their offensive partly through excessive egotism and also in desperation."

PREVAILING OPINION IS SERIOUS BUT CONFIDENT British Have Plenty of Prepared Positions if Needed London Says.

(By The Associated Press) London, March 25.—Opinion tonight varies. Prevailing sentiment is serious but confident. In prisoners and guns it is admitted tonight the losses are believed to be those already announced by the Germans. The northern line evidently is firm. The British are still well to the east of the lines long held, for instance, at the Somme. There are plenty of prepared positions if needed. The shelling of Paris at a range of 50 miles mystifies, but it is evident a high velocity gun throwing 9.2-inch shells could not have been rushed forward and placed in two days; therefore, the thing is only a fresh manifestation of frightfulness. The use of German cavalry may indicate the exhaustion of infantry. In any case there is evident little probability of open fighting west of Cambrai, where the British are still well to the east of Bapaume. The St. Quentin development took place mostly Thursday. The Crozat canal position, covering Peronne, had been foreseen. The French official of tonight has not yet been received.

BRITISH FOUGHT WITH GREAT STUBBORNNESS Artillery Splendidly Sacrificed itself in Covering Retreat.

(By The Associated Press) London, March 25.—The British in their retreat defended every hill, ridge and fortification with the greatest stubbornness, messages from the German war correspondent on the western front say according to Central News dispatches from Amsterdam. The British artillery, it is added, splendidly sacrificed itself in covering the retreat the batteries only breaking up when the German storming troops arrived within a few hundred yards of the position. The British gunners then fired their last ammunition and retired.

PRESIDENT IN MESSAGE CABLED TO GENERAL HAIG TODAY PREDICTS A FINAL VICTORY FOR THE ALLIES.

ADMIRATION FOR THE BRITISH STAND "The Perfect Confidence of All Americans is That You Will Secure a Final Victory," Says the President.

(By The Associated Press) Washington, March 25.—President Wilson today cabled Field Marshal Haig, congratulating him on the British stand against the German offensive, and predicting a final allied victory. The President's message read: "May I not express to you my warm admiration of the splendid steadfastness and valor with which your troops have withstood the German onset and the perfect confidence all Americans feel that you will win a secure and final victory."

King George Also Congratulates Gen. Haig.

(By The Associated Press) London, March 25.—King George today sent the following message to Field Marshal Haig: "I can assure you that the fortitude, courage and self-sacrifice with which the troops under your command continue so heroically to resist the greatly superior numbers, are realized by me and my people. The empire stands calm and confident in its soldiers. May God bless them, and give them strength in this time of trial."

AMERICAN TROOPS NOT IN THE BIG OFFENSIVE Nothing to Story That Any American Troops Have Been Attached to British Forces.

(By The Associated Press) Washington, March 25.—The German statements that American troops had taken part in the fighting on the British front in France had not been confirmed today, and officials including Maj. Gen. March, chief of staff, declined to comment on the reports. Although a detachment of American engineers was caught in the German counterattack on Cambrai salient several months ago, officers indicated there was nothing here to show that any American troops other than engineers or special units had been attached to the British forces.

ANOTHER AIR RAID ALARM IN PARIS In Forty-five Minutes All Was Clear and Parisians Were Able to Resume Their Beds.

(By The Associated Press) Paris, March 25.—Another air raid alarm was sounded shortly after one o'clock this morning. After three-quarter hour firemen's bugles and church bells announced that all was clear, and the Parisians were able to return to their beds.

GERMANS WILL SOON OCCUPY PETROGRAD Virtually All Americans Have Left the City.

(By The Associated Press) Washington, March 25.—The German occupation of Petrograd within 24 hours was predicted by American Council Treadwell in a dispatch that reached the state department today, dated March 20. Virtually all Americans have left the city, the dispatch said.

HOSTILE AIRSHIP IS SEEN AT CAIRO, EGYPT Public There Warned of Possibility of Air Raids.

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