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APPALLING SLAUGHTER WROUGHT AMONG THE TEUTON INFANTRY BY MACHINE GUN AND RIFLE FIRE

Withdrawal of British Forces in Event of German Attack in Great Force Planned Long in Advance—Associated Press Correspondent Describes Withdrawal as Masterly Operation and Says Unquestionably Is to Let the Enemy Wear Himself Out Against Powerful Defense.

The withdrawal of the British forces along the battle front in France was long ago planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the British front through the Associated Press correspondent, who describes the operation of the British army as a masterly withdrawal, made possible by gallant shock troops in the front lines, who checked the advance of the Germans, while artillery, machine gun and rifle fire worked appalling slaughter among the masses of German infantry as they were sent forward, this enabling the main body of the British to fall back deliberately and without confusion.

This army, it is declared, has been conserved, and up to the present very few counter-attacks have been made against the Germans. Where the British have stormed the Germans' newly acquired positions they have driven them back. But each mile of advance makes the bringing up of supplies to the German artillery and infantry more and more difficult, and unquestionably the British strategy, as demonstrated since the beginning of the great attack, is to let the enemy, so far as he may, wear himself out against a powerful defense.

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

On the battle line in France the sanguinary struggle still is going on, with the British troops on most of the sectors apparently holding their own, but with the Germans at salient points still pressing forward.

The town of Chauny, southwest of St. Quentin, situated on the road to Compiègne, the gateway to Paris, has been occupied by the Germans and, according to the Berlin official communications, everywhere between the Somme and Oise rivers the Germans are pressing their advantage.

Throughout Sunday along the entire 50-mile battle front the fighting never ceased for a moment, and where Field Marshal Haig's men were unable to withstand the terrific onslaughts delivered by greatly superior force,

ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

It now has been definitely ascertained that considerably more than a million Germans have been brought to the western front in an endeavor to crush the British army holding the line from the region of Arras to the south of St. Quentin, but it daily becomes increasingly evident that the enemy in his drive has met with opposition not counted upon and been unable to realize to the full his objectives.

In addition to Chauny, the Germans are claiming the capture of both Peronne and Ham, and have increased the number of prisoners taken to more than 30,000, in addition to 600 guns and large stores of war materials.

It is claimed also by the Germans that American and French regiments which were brought up to reinforce the British have been defeated, but no further information than this mere statement has been vouchsafed.

In their retirement, according to Berlin, the British are burning towns and villages behind them. This statement, however, seemingly, is capable of being received with reserve, as the Germans themselves, in their famous "strategic retirement left little standing in the territory they evacuated, even denuding the country of trees.

One of the mysteries of the offensive which now has been solved is that the shelling of Paris is being done by a long range German gun. This statement is contained in the Berlin official communication, and a Paris dispatch says that one of the guns has been located near Laon, about 76 miles from the center of Paris. Throughout Sunday morning and into the mid-afternoon shells were dropped in Paris at intervals of from 12 to 20 minutes.

Already the spirit of boastfulness which pervades the German army in times of success is being strongly manifested. Field Marshal von Hindenburg has complimented the German emperor on the "initial success" and the latest German official communication is loud in its plaudits of the German troops, declaring that the attacking spirit of the infantry could not have been exceeded.

On the other battle fronts the fighting activity continues comparatively slight, except for reciprocal bombardments and trench raiding operations. Along the Aisne front and in Champagne the artillery duels between the French and the Germans have been somewhat violent. The Americans on their sectors, especially northwest of Toul, are daily keeping up their artillery practice, with visibly good results, against the German positions in front of them and now and then carrying out successful raids.

In the Italian theater the snow on the ground and the freshets in the valleys continue to hinder the operations on a large scale, but from the preparatory artillery activity and the skirmishes that are being carried out, it becomes increasingly evident that this theater shortly is to be the scene of a sanguinary encounter.

Washington, March 24.—Violent fighting between the British and Germans were continuing at 2:30 o'clock this morning between Croisilles and Tergnier, an official dispatch from Paris to

U. S. MACHINE GUN HELPS KEEP BOCHES AT BAY IN FRANCE



Actual photograph of American machine-gun squad in action "somewhere in France."

U. S. CRUISER BRINGING IN CAPTURED GERMAN RAIDER

A Pacific Port, March 22.—With what is declared to be a captured German raider in tow, a United States cruiser is expected to reach this port next Sunday or Monday, according to information given out today by naval officers here.

Wireless messages from the commander of the cruiser said that the captured vessel is the Alexander Agassiz, for several years in the service of the biological institute at La Jolla, Cal. The capture was made last Tuesday off Mazatlan, Mexico.

The Agassiz, according to the warship's messages, carries an all-German crew and was outfit for service as a raider of commerce.

The Agassiz, according to federal officials, has been a source of much trouble for sometime, and has been under suspicion since last clearing from San Diego, January 27, 1917.

SIXTEEN DEATHS AFTER COLLISION

Washington, March 22.—Two additional deaths as a result of the collision between the destroyer Manley and a British man of war on March 19 were announced today by the navy department.

This brought the death list to sixteen. John C. Holmes, carpenter's mate, of Boston, was one of the twelve men reported killed today. The names of the 11 others have not been received.

It was announced also that ten men not reported were injured. All of these hurt were reported doing well.

Isaac Diggs, mess attendant No. 26, Cleveland street, Norfolk, was among the injured landed and sent to a hospital.

The navy department today announced that the name of Louis Cohen, boatswain's mate, previously reported killed, should be corrected to read Lewis Cohen and that his address should be Baltimore.

Richard P. Gallman, seriously injured, was Richard E. Gallman. His emergency address was Trough, S. C.

day announced. The Germans are using 97 divisions of troops and their losses are heavy. The British resistance is declared to be "efficient."

London, March 24.—"North of Peronne," says the official statement from British headquarters in France, "enemy attacks were directed with the greatest violence against the line of the River Torille (a tributary of the Somme). Our troops on this portion of the battle front have been withdrawn and are fighting on new positions.

TAX SLACKERS

"Tax slackers will be prosecuted as vigorously and relentlessly under the war revenue act as draft slackers were prosecuted under the selective service act. The aid of all good citizens is invoked in bringing to justice the man who deliberately seeks to evade his just share of the war burden."

This was the statement today of Commissioner of Internal Revenue Daniel C. Roper. With only 5 days left in which to file income war tax returns, he has practically completed the organization of a huge dragnet for bringing into camp all persons who fail to file returns by April 1. Revenue officers in every section of the country are checking up returns with a view to bringing prosecutions against tax dodgers. The word has gone forth that such offenders need expect no leniency.

"Through its educational campaign the Bureau of Internal Revenue has endeavored to cover the field so thoroughly that ignorance of the law cannot be consistently offered as an excuse," said Commissioner Roper today. "The press, the four minute men, the State and County Councils of National Defense, the field force of the Department of Agriculture and other government departments, banks, post offices and hundreds of volunteer agencies have cooperated in bringing home to the taxpayer his duty.

"The man who failed to register under the selective service act was regarded by the War Department as a slacker and prosecuted as such. The man who fails to file his income tax will be regarded as a 'money slacker,' and when discovered, as he will be, will be made to suffer full penalties of the law."

"To the credit of the Nation it may be said that I have gratifying and conclusive evidence that these taxes will be paid by the great majority of the American people cheerfully and willingly. But the duty of the honest man does not end with the payment of his own tax. I call upon him to aid in bringing into camp the tax dodger. A man soiggardly as to seek to evade what his representatives in Congress have declared to be his just share of a tax imposed for the support of our arms is deserving of no consideration and will receive none.

"Congress has distributed this tax justly and equitably. The rate is fixed so that the rich man and the man of moderate means are assessed each according to his income. No man can offer the excuse that his neighbor escapes what he is made to pay. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all good citizens to aid in carrying out the intent and spirit of the law, which is that the burden of the war tax be evenly distributed and every man compelled to pay his just quota."

AIRCRAFT PLAYS IMPORTANT PART

London, March 22.—British aircraft during the fighting along the front in France Thursday aided materially the infantry forces below, killing or wounding many Germans with the machine guns while flying at low altitudes, according to a British official communication issued tonight dealing with aviation.

In addition British aircraft bombed important military positions behind the line and aviators accounted for numerous German airmen in battles in the air. The text of the communication follows:

"The mist over the whole front Thursday morning cleared locally later, but at most places the weather was unsuitable for low flying. The enemy's attacking troops and reinforcements on the battle front offered excellent targets to the pilots of our low flying machines, which poured many thousands of rounds into them, causing innumerable casualties.

"Our bombing machines also attacked these targets, in addition to bombing important railway stations on the battle front, over 100 bombs being dropped.

"A great deal of fighting occurred at low altitudes, in which 16 hostile machines were downed and six driven down out of control. A hostile balloon was destroyed by one of our pilots. One of the enemy's low-flying airplanes was shot down in our lines by infantry. Three of our machines are missing.

"During the night night-flying squadrons in the southern area of the front were unable to leave the ground, owing to the mist. In the northern area, where the weather was clear, our airplanes dropped three and a half tons of bombs on the dockyards at Bruges and three and a half tons of bombs on rest billets northwest of Tournai. All of our machines returned."

MEN WHO GO TO CAMP FROM SURRY COUNTY

The following list of men have been named by the Surry county exemption board to leave for training on the first of April: Davis S. Jones, Mt. Airy; John Dee Jessup, Brim; James Edgar Needham, Pilot Mountain; Chas. G. Robertson, White Plains; Elbert G. Younce, Round Peak; Albert Grover Draughn, Rusk; Caleb Haynes Allred, Mt. Airy; Jesse Isaacs, Mt. Airy; Arthur F. Jones, Mt. Airy; Elmer E. Mounce, Rusk; Jesse Martin, Pilot Mountain; Kendrick B. Wilmoth, Thurmond; Wm. Matthews Beasley, Mt. Airy.

The following is the list of colored men who leave Surry county March 29 to take training: Walter Gwyn, Joseph Gray, Elsmere Headen, John Mitchell, Thackston Tucker, McKinley Doss, Clyde Allen, Leroy John Kelly, Roy Johnson, Fred Douglas Davis, Thos. S. Satterfield, of Mt. Airy; Julius Hampton, of Elkin; Noby Parks, of Shoals; Wesley France, of Brim.

HEAVY FIGHTING WITH AIRPLANES

London, March 23.—An official statement of the aerial operations issued tonight says: "A thick morning mist on Friday prevent 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 one battle front. 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 location and range of bodies of hostile troops and transports 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 battle front and also on the enemy's billets, high velocity guns, troops and transport. The fighting in the air was very heavy, almost all the combats taking place between Arras and St. Quentin. Twenty seven enemy machines were brought down and twenty were driven 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 hostile billets, ammunition dumps and areas in which the enemy's attacking troops were concentrated. All our machines returned."

FIRST DAYLIGHT RAID ON PARIS

Paris, March 23.—The first day light air raid on Paris came today, which was one of perfect sunshine. The people of Paris refused to immer themselves in cellars and other subterranean shelters and the streets always had a great number of people in them watching for an aerial battle.

As the day passed and the "all clear" signal was not given, the feeling grew that something new in the way of a raid was expected. This was not explained until an official statement was issued, saying that the delay was due to the bombardment by long distance cannon.

Pieces of the shells on examination, were found to bear riding marks, which proved that they had not been dropped, but had been fired from a gun.

This left a greater mystery than ever. Another thing which turned the thoughts of the officials to the possibility that a cannon was being used was the regularity with which the bombs fell, one every 15 minutes.

Paris, March 23.—Paris received a third warning of an attack within 24 hours with unshaken nerves tonight when an alarm was given at 9 o'clock. The "all clear" signal was given at 10:20, before the population could learn whether the warning was against an airplane raid, or whether the long distance German cannon had resumed operations.

Chief of the Women's Overseas Hospital Unit

Within a month the Women's Overseas Hospital unit, U. S. A., will start for France to take up its duties in the first women's overseas hospital established by the National American Woman Suffrage association in Gisors, in the Aisne region. The unit consists of four doctors, nurses, pharmacists and about 40 auxiliaries. The photograph is of Dr. Alice Gregory, who is head physician of the unit.

GREATEST PROJECTOR GAS BOMBARDMENT OF WAR

Canadian Headquarters in France, Thursday, March 21.—While German and British troops were struggling, far to the south, in the opening clash of the spring campaign, the greatest projector gas bombardment of the war was carried out by the Canadians tonight against enemy positions between Lens and Hill 70.

At 11 o'clock a signal rocket was sent up. A moment later more than 5,000 drums of lethal gas, simultaneously released from projectors, were hurled into enemy territory from the outskirts of Lens to Cit St. Auguste and Bois Dedix-Huit. From his front lines and strong points favoring winds carried the poisonous clouds back upon the enemy's dugouts, supports, reserves and assembly areas. The whole front was lit by enemy flares which could be seen through the heavy mist, while the enemy's gas alarm and cries of distress could be heard from the hostile trenches.

Nine minutes later the Canadian field artillery supported by heavy guns and trench mortars, opened up with a slow bombardment, increasing in violence until 40 minutes later, the enemy positions were swept with a short, intensive creeping barrage, which raked his forward and rear areas with high explosives.

Caught by the gas without a moment's warning and caught again as they were emerging from their shelters, by gunfire, the Germans' casualties must have been very heavy, for the effectiveness of smaller gas operations had been emphatically proved by the evidence of prisoners, and tonight's bombardment was three times greater than any thing of its kind ever attempted by the Canadians on the western front, and much greater than anything ever launched by the Germans.

STILL PRESENT A SOLID FRONT

British Army Headquarters in France, March 23.—(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 defense.

The operation is vast and is changing with kaleidoscopic rapidity.

Forty nine German divisions have been identified thus far on the battle front. Some estimates place the number of German divisions engaged as high as ninety, but it is impossible to say if this is accurate.

Certainly the Germans are putting all their available strength into the assault and fresh troops are constantly appearing.

The fighting yesterday was of the most sanguinary character and the enemy continued to lose great numbers of men through his system of massed attacks. That does not mean that the British have not suffered casualties. They necessarily have, but their losses are much smaller than those of their opponents.

The visibility became excellent late yesterday and the whole battle front was turned into a veritable hell with the artillery action, as the unprecedented concentration of guns on both sides cut loose their freight of death.

Men who fought through the great battles of the Somme, Flanders and Arras, say that they never before have seen anything to approach the awful gunfire of the present conflict. There is not even an infinitesimal space between the explosions as thousands of guns of all calibers work to their fullest capacity.

Especially bitter fighting occurred last night in the region of Roisel, Mory, Moohy (Mortelles) and Beaumonts.

The British air service has been doing valuable work with machine guns against the advancing enemy.

Made Supervisor of Industrial Relations



Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth college, who has accepted the post of supervisor of industrial relations in the office of Major General Goodrich, being quarantined for pneumonia. Doctor Hopkins will be stationed at the war hospital.