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BRITISH PRESS-ING HITS HARD SAYS HAIG

London, Aug. 24.—The full text of the official communication from Field Marshal Haig tonight reads:

"On the battle front north of the Somme, continuous fighting has taken place since the early hours of the morning. Our troops, pressing the enemy hard at all points, have allowed him no respite. Despite the arrival of considerable hostile reinforcements progress has again been realized on the whole front of our attack. Numbers of prisoners and quantities of material of every description have fallen into our hands.

"Shortly after midnight Australian troops, attacking along the north bank of the Somme, captured Bray-sur-Somme, securing a number of prisoners. Continuing their advance with great skill and initiative they carried the enemy's positions in this neighborhood.

"On their left, London and east county troops made further progress during the night along the high ground southeast of Albert, taking several hundred prisoners. On the right center of our attack, Welsh troops and battalions from the northern counties of England advanced over the ground of the old Somme battle field of 1916 about La Boiselle, Ovillers, Mouquet farm, Thiepval and Grandcourt. All these strongly defended localities were captured in the face of determined hostile resistance, together with over 2,000 prisoners.

"Our troops are once more astride the Thiepval ridge and are advancing eastward.

"On the left center of our attack east of Lancashire troops have been heavily engaged all day about Miraumont where the enemy held out with great stubbornness until the village was gradually outflanked by our advancing columns.

"North of this village the New Zealand division in the center of the attack struck in the direction of Bapaume. Advancing with irresistible dash and determination it carried the defenses of Loupart wood, taking 400 prisoners. Pressing forward with great gallantry it captured Grevillers and Biefvillers and reached Avronnes-les-Bapaumes.

"On the flanks of this attack English troops gained possession of Iries and advanced in the direction of Sapiignies, overcoming strong hostile resistance at Iries and east of Biecourt.

"On the left of the battle front English and Scottish divisions and the guards are fighting on the front of Mory, Croisilles and Neuville Vitasse and have captured St. Leger, Henin-sur-Cojeul and the hill east of the latter village.

No estimate of captures can yet be given.

"On the remainder of the British front successful local actions have taken place. North of the Carpe we have captured a section of the German front line northeast of Fampoux with a few prisoners.

"North of the La Bassée canal we captured the old British front line east and northeast of Vivenchy and made progress into the German positions in a completely successful operation in which all objectives were secured with over 60 prisoners. During the night our patrols occupied Neuf Perquin, where a number of German dead were found by our troops.

"This morning we have advanced our line north of Bailleur on a front of a mile, capturing some 50 prisoners. A counter attack attempted by the enemy during the afternoon was crushed by our artillery."

GERMANS TAKEN PRISONER ANXIOUS; DEPRESSED

British Army Headquarters, Aug. 25. (Reuter's).—The demeanor of hundreds of German officers taken prisoner recently is in striking contrast with the attitude of officers captured during the British retreat last spring. Then German officer prisoners were arrogant and meant to crush the British to earth, but now they are depressed and very anxious. They appear very willing to talk and the tenor of their conversation may be summed up as follows: They say Germany entered the war with enthusiasm, but this has long since disappeared and the struggle has now become an economic one with Great Britain.

They admit that Germany is practically in a hopeless condition, both economically and from the manpower point of view, and ask whether Great Britain cannot now consider Germany sufficiently reduced to be no longer a dangerous trade rival or whether the allies intend to crush her altogether. In the latter case, they say, Germany will be forced to fight to the last, but they make no effort to conceal their impression of what this means for the fatherland.

They say they believe there is every disposition to evacuate Belgium and northern France and even negotiate for the retention or evacuation of Alsace-Lorraine.

They are generally unanimous in agreeing that annexations thus far made and the Brest Litovsk peace treaty were a great mistake, but that they cannot withdraw from Russia in the present condition of affairs there. They are aware that the American army has now assumed very formidable proportions and there is a general admission of the seriousness of this factor.

The submarine campaign they cannot refer to without gestures of impatience.

Captured non-commissioned officers attribute recent German defeats to the inefficiency of their air service and more especially to the inexperience and lack of stamina of the latest recruits who are most inadequately drilled and trained and who are physically incapable of sustaining the heavy strain of defensive warfare. The mere presence of these recruits, they say, produces in a company a demoralizing effect upon the older men because it indicates to what straits Germany must be reduced to employ such poor material.

The Legion of Honor is Awarded 55 Americans

With the American Army in France, Aug. 25.—By the Associated Press.—Fifty-five officers, non-commissioned officers and men of a certain American division were awarded the legion of honor, the military medal, the war cross or distinguished service cross this morning at the most brilliant decoration ceremony the American army has held in France.

Similar decorations have been awarded 72 others, who were unable to be present owing to the fact that they are in a hospital. Most of the awards have been made for gallant service in the Marne battle.

The decorations and medals were personally pinned on the Americans by General (name deleted) who was accompanied by a large group of American, French and British staff officers as well as major and brigadier generals.

After the decoration ceremony was completed, regiments of infantry, engineers, French machine gunners and American artillery, with colors flying, defiled past the men thus honored.

BRITISH NEARING NORTHERN END OF HINDENBURG LINE

With the British Army in France, Aug. 25.—On some parts of the northern battle front the British have reached points a thousand yards from the old Hindenburg line, which seems strongly held.

With the British Army in France, Aug. 25.—The British continue smashing the Germans toward the old Hindenburg line, which has almost been reached in the northern battle zone. The defenses of Bapaume have either already been captured or are in process of being captured.

Bapaume itself must fall shortly.

The Germans exhibit signs of cracking at some places, but offer regular desperate resistance. Many more guns, some of large caliber, have been taken. One British corps alone has counted 80 guns.

There is evidence of confusion in the enemy rear. Units of the same divisions hurled into the battle have been taken at points separated by many miles. Quantities of material are falling into British hands because the Boche has not troubled to apply the torch or explosives.

Pozieres, to the north of Albert, fell this morning. British patrols were seen entering Martin, Puich, where apparently the Boche made good his escape.

High Wood, a strong position near Lonneval (northwest of Comblès) is reported captured, while Eaucourt L'Abbaye, Contalmaison and Courcellette have been occupied by the British.

London, Aug. 25.—Field Marshal Haig today continued his attacks against the Germans north of the River Somme. Contalmaison, three and three-quarter miles northeast of Albert, and Warlencourt-Eaucourt, on the Albert-Bapaume road, three miles southwest of Bapaume, have been captured by the British, according to the official statement issued today by the war office.

The British now hold the road from Albert to Bapaume as far as the outskirts of Le Sars.

North of Bapaume the British have captured Sapiignies and Behagnies.

Since August 31, more than 17,000 German prisoners have passed through the collecting stations of the British third and fourth armies.

The text of the statement reads:

"Our attack to the north of the Somme is continuing. Our troops hold the road from Albert to Bapaume as far as the outskirts of Le Sars, and have captured Contalmaison and Warlencourt-Eaucourt.

"To the north of Bapaume we have taken Sapiignies and Behagnies.

"The number of prisoners taken by the third and fourth armies on the battle front since the morning of August 21 and passed through the collecting stations now exceeds 17,000.

"A counter attack attempted by the enemy early last night against our positions recently gained to the north of Bailleur (in the Lys salient) broke down under our fire."

London, Aug. 25.—The British troops made further progress today and have taken many prisoners, notwithstanding the arrival of German reinforcements on the battlefront. Many hostile counter attacks were broken down. Our troops with great gallantry have overcome the resistance and have made further progress; they have taken many prisoners.

"North of the Somme the Australians carried the enemy's positions on the high ground east

WOMAN WORKER INSPECTING GRENADES



Woman worker inspecting Mills hand grenades in an English factory in which they are the war cotton-spinning machinery was made.

of Bray. British troops advanced in the direction of Carnoy and have taken Mametz.

"In the center we captured Martin Puich, Le Sars and Le Barque.

"North of Bapaume there has been severe fighting in Favreuil and about Mory and Croisilles. We have made progress east of Behagnies and in Neuville-Vitasse."

American Forces on the Vesle Front, August 24.—Prisoners taken today by American troops in the region of Chateau du Diable, to the west of Fismes, said they had been ordered to keep in constant contact with the Americans along the Vesle river. The German retreat north of the Marne river had been carried out in an orderly manner, they declared, hence German soldiers believe it to have been premeditated and a tactical maneuver intended to eliminate an awkward salient.

The general impression among German soldiers, the prisoners said, was, now that so many powers had combined against Germany, that it was not possible for Germany to win, yet the entente allies would never be able to enter Germany because the Germans had seen too much of the destruction in France to permit of Germany suffering in a similar manner.

The prisoners said Germany would be defended to the last man. If that did not suffice an immediate peace must avert an invasion. The Germans admitted that the Americans had fought with freshness and enthusiasm.

Storm in East Carolina Does 1,000,000 Damage

Raleigh, Aug. 25.—Belated reports tonight from several eastern North Carolina points indicate damages to the extent of considerably more than a million dollars to buildings and crops, and the loss of at least one life in last night's storm. Beaufort, Morehead City, New Bern and Kinston reported the severest damage, indicating that they were in the center of the storm area. Wire communication from Kinston and New Bern were restored tonight at 10 o'clock, but direct reports from the other coast towns had not been secured at midnight.

Tonight's reports from New Bern tell of extensive damage to property, overhead wire systems and to crops, principally corn and cotton. The damage to the crops is general. The wind is estimated to have reached a velocity of from 75 to 100 miles an hour. Beaufort and Morehead City were the greatest sufferers, but they are still cut off from the outside world.

John Crabtree, city alderman of New Bern, was crushed and instantly killed by the roof of a shanty car, when it was blown from its fastenings into an adjoining street.

The storm struck New Bern

yesterday afternoon at about 3 o'clock and continued through the night. Ships were blown from their moorings and beached, houses were unroofed and the streets littered and blocked by fallen trees and telegraph poles. Floods added to the damage, water from the Pamlico sound being driven up the Neuse and Trent rivers, overflowing banks and inundating all of the low streets of the city. The electric lighting system was completely knocked out and wire communication with the outside world cut off until 10 o'clock tonight.

Reports from Kinston declared that the wind reached a velocity of 80 miles an hour, leveling all wires and doing considerable damage of a minor nature to a number of buildings. The lighting system was completely demolished and the little city was in total darkness throughout last night. The streets were littered with debris and several suffered minor injuries. During the night a number of fires started in damaged buildings, but were prevented from spreading or doing serious damage by the individual efforts of citizens. Owing to the conditions of the district the fire department was helpless to cope with the situation.

Fortunes of the War "Definitely Settled" Declares Clemenceau

Paris, Aug. 25.—"The fine victories of the past three weeks have definitely decided the fortunes of war," says M. Clemenceau, the French premier, in a message today thanking the department councils which voted congratulations to the government on the trend of the war.

Premier Clemenceau today telegraphed the presidents of the general councils that they could rely upon the government and Marshall Foch and his magnificent staff and the allied military commanders to turn the present success of the allied arms into a complete and decisive collapse of the enemy.

"The splendid victories of recent weeks," said M. Clemenceau, "in which the spirit of our allies has so magnificently rivaled ours, has definitely settled the fortune of war. The enemy, bewildered, deceived himself as to his own strength and now is finding out that he underestimated us."

"The results achieved are the first fruits of our harvest of rewards, the highest of which will be having delivered the world from ruthless oppression and brutality.

"We hail the dawn, the first gleams of which heightened the victorious brows of the founders of the American republic and of the fathers of our revolution. The last obstacle to the establishment of rights among men is about to disappear. The triumph is near."

ALLIED VICTORY AFFECTING THE GERMAN MORALE

With the French Army in France, Aug. 23.—Further evidence has been gathered that the victories of the allies have affected considerably the morale of the German troops. The allies continue their concentrated fire which the Germans have been unable to combat.

After the surprise caused by the allies' successful resistance in the middle of July, the consternation at the successful counter attacks and the depression caused by the retreats, dissensions seem to have arisen between different elements of the German army. These have resulted in bitter recriminations, concerning what has been collected recently.

The French again are on the edge of the battlefield of 1917. To the north lies the Ailette valley. Eight miles eastward is La-faux Mill and the beginning of Chemis des Dames.

French cavalry patrols crossed the Ailette today although the Germans fought desperately to keep them on the west side of the river and the canal.

State Fair Will Not Be Held This Fall

Raleigh, Aug. 24.—Acceptance on the part of the government of the North Carolina Agricultural society's offer to lease the state fair grounds for use in connection with the tank training camp to be located here means that there will be no state fair held this fall. Official notification of the government's acceptance of the society's offer was received by Secretary Joseph E. Pogue last night.

Secretary Pogue now has before him a big task in appraising the patrons and exhibitors of the fact that the government has taken over the fair grounds. Much preliminary work has been done, many contracts have been signed and much space contracted for. All parties concerned will receive a carefully worded explanation of the reasons why the fair couldn't be held this year.

"I regret exceedingly," said Secretary Pogue last night, "that the two interests conflicted, but the North Carolina Agricultural society realized from the beginning that the government had first call. The fair grounds have been taken over for necessary purposes looking to a speeding up of war preparations and we regarded it a privilege and a pleasure to yield to the government when we realized that it meant facilitating the work of winning the war."

The State Fair organization will remain intact.

Prompt Passage Expected

Washington, Aug. 25.—A clear track was given in the senate today to the man power bill passed in the house Saturday, extending the age limit from 18 to 45.

When the senate convened under a long standing agreement to take up war-time measures, Senator Sheppard of Texas, prohibitionist, moved temporarily to lay the prohibition measure aside and debates on the amendments to the man power bill were resumed with passage late today or tomorrow expected.

To expedite and simplify procedure the house bill was substituted for the draft which has been pending in the senate. The senate military committee met before the senate convened and reported the house bill with minor amendments after adopting the senate amendments, including the "work or fight" proposals.

OVER 1,500,000 AMERICANS HAVE GONE OVER THERE

Washington, August 24.—Announcing that to date more than 1,500,000 American soldiers have embarked for foreign shores, General March, chief of staff, reiterated today his firm belief that the presence of 4,000,000 troops of the United States in France by next summer would enable the allies to carry out any campaign they may adopt for the defeat of Germany and the end of the war. Such declarations, General March said, were founded upon cold blooded study of the respective manpower of the allies and of the enemy in June, 1919, and are not issued as spread-eagle statements.

General March impressed the newspaper men who met him in conference today with the absolute confidence American officers have in their men as a result of the initial tests on the battlefields of France. He intimated that the somewhat sensational prediction which he had made was based as much upon these soldierly qualities as in the numerical superiority which the war department plans to give the allied command by mid summer of next year.

"The American soldier deserves the confidence of the American people," said General March. "On every occasion so far where he has been tested he has absolutely delivered the goods."

"My confidence in them is inspired and developed by serving with them and beside them in battle. I have ordered back from France certain men who have won distinction over there to give them increased rank in the divisions organizing at home. These men talk the same language I do. You do not find any lack of confidence on the front in France among the American forces."

"These officers are now telling me interesting things which have not yet come over in official reports. One officer reported specifically that in one engagement of the first American division, they captured 68 German guns and brought them in at the rear of our trucks. On the same occasion they took 3,500 prisoners."

"Another officer reported that the second division, which he was with, captured 10 complete German batteries which they brought in and presented to General Pershing."

No recent reports have been made to the department on the progress of the organization of the first United States field army and the chief of staff was unable to say whether the concentration of the 30 divisions definitely assigned to this force was nearing completion. This organization is being left entirely in the hands of General Pershing, who is governed by instructions from General Foch. The fact that no mention has been made of American units participating in the French and British drives of the current week has led to the firm belief here that all these troops have been withdrawn and sent to the American sector in readiness for whatever more may be assigned to them in the allies' plan.

Fire Destroys Whiskey Valued at \$2,840,000

Owensboro, Ky., Aug. 24.—Fire starting tonight at 7 o'clock at the plant of the Green River Distilling company here by 10:30 o'clock tonight had destroyed the entire plant, 48,000 barrels of whiskey and entailed a loss well in excess of \$2,000,000. The whiskey alone was valued at \$2,840,000 and the loss to the United States government is approximately \$6,750,000.