BRITISH HOLD GROUND AGAINST 125,000 ENEMY STORM TROOPS

Furious Attacks on British Defences Between Givenchy and St. Venant Hurled Back Leaving Thousands of Dead on the Field.

A despatch from the British Army in France says: Ten divisions of German troops were driving on Thursday furiously against the British defences between Givenchy-Lez-La Bassee and St. Venant in an attempt to effect a crossing of La Bassee Canal. The British were holding well and inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Coincidentally with this pretentious assault the Germans surged forward further north, and again began hammering at the approaches to Kemmel and the neighboring high ground, but met with no better success.

British troops in the neighborhood of Wytschaete on Thursday morning were continuing their all-night battle with the Germans. A German attack on Wednesday resulted in pushing a salient out north-west of the place, but a subsequent British counter-attack again drew the British line close about the town, and at one time a small body of British infantry penetrated to the south-eastern section.

The British lost a very small piece of territory between Bailleul and Dranoutre on Wednesday, but the German attack here must be recorded as a failure.

Just south of this place, near Merris, the British by a counterstroke succeeded in pushing their lines forward towards the Western outskirts of the village.

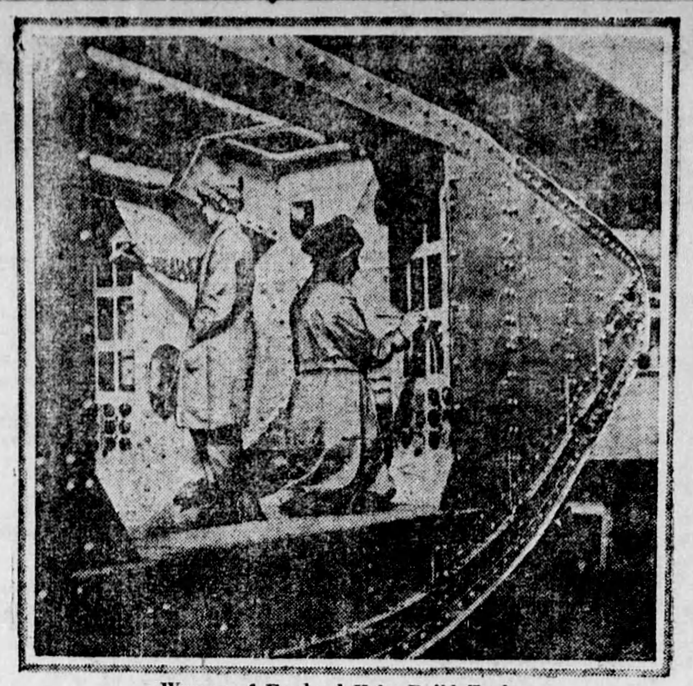
The Germans have been bringing up fresh divisions to the Bailleul sector, but the most promising sign is that they are beginning to use a second time the troops which had such hard fighting in the early days of the offensive. For the past few days the high command appears to have departed from its usual careful methods.

Apparently the tanks, armored cars and cavalry have not been in action on either side. We are now down to a sheer contest of man-power—a swaying, ceaseless attack and repulse, with the vital issue carried in the anxious problem of whether our powers of endurance can wear down the repeated bull rushes of vastly superior numbers before a decision is reached. At the moment the prospect assuredly justifies confidence in this respect.

A later despatch says:—Along the northern battle-front at noon on Friday the Germans were still resting on their arms after the bitter defeat which they suffered on Thursday in their great drive. Up to that hour they had not recovered sufficiently to make any further threats in this line, and they were rushing the reorganization of their badly-hammered forces.

Each successive report gives further confirmation of the terrific losses sustained by the assaulting infantry during Thursday's sanguinary struggle. Between Givenchy and Festubert the ground on Friday morning was strewn with German dead and at many other points on the long front of action excessvie casualties were inflicted by the British artillery and machine-gun fire, which mowed down the unhappy storm troops in countless numbers. The British machine gunners worked their weapons in many cases until the enemy was but 50 yards away.

There was no chance of missing these point-blank targets. Time and again the enemy line wavered and fell back unable to withstand the deluge of bullets, and where they succeeded in getting to close quarters they left a heavy trail of dead and dying behind.



Women of England Help Build Tanks.

British women have been pictured at work in practically every industry that will help win the war. This photograph is the first one received here showing women engaged in the construction of the wonderful British tanks.

FRENCH BEGIN OFFENSIVE IN SEVERAL SECTORS, CAPTURING TERRAIN

Successful Attacks Result in Taking of Greater Part of Senecat Wood—French Masters in Air Fighting.

A despatch from Paris says:—East of Amiens, along the Avre River, the French have made successful attacks against the Germans on several sectors, capturing the greater part of the Senecat Wood and also advancing their line east and west of the stream. The Germans in the Aisne region attacked the French near Corbeny and also in the Champagne, but in each instance were repulsed, while the French in Lorraine carried out a successful manœuvre against the enemy in which prisoners were taken.

If ever anyone doubted the French mastery of the air the recent destruction of the Friedrichshafen works ought to convince these persons that the French are masters in air fighting. Not only on bombing expeditions are the French masters, but also in fighting air battles.

Ever since the Battle of the Somme started, French machines have kept in constant liaison with the infantry and artillery units. The escadrilles operating at low altitudes have caused the Germans frightful losses.

Perhaps the greatest day the French aviators have had was April 12, when eight German machines where shot down, damaged, within the German lines, five captive balloons were shot down in flames and five others were pierced through by French bullets. During the same day, and the following night, the French dropped 48 tons of bombs on enemy depots and munition dumps. American aviators attached to the French escadrilles participated in the bombing and air fighting expeditions.

A later despatch says: All efforts by the Germans to keep the French engaged around Hangard-en-Santerre and prevent them from sending reinforcements further north, where the enemy is launching an attack against the British lines, have failed. The French in the course of numerous engagements in this district have greatly improved their positions, and have not in any way been deceived by the attempted diversions of the enemy.

The battles in the neighborhood of Hangard have been of a most fierce description, involving hand-to-hand fighting in the streets and inside houses. The village itself has changed hands several times, but now is firmly held by the French, who throughout the most determined onslaughts of the Germans have displayed the most heroic bravery. The Germans have lost enormous numbers of men, their dead lying about everywhere. A considerable number of their men have been forced to surrender. Since April 12 there have been repeated small attacks by German shock troops.

A brilliant attack by the French, begun at dawn on Thursday, along a 5-mile front, extending between Thennes and Mailly-Raineval, resulted in a sharp setback for the enemy, together with the capture of several hundred Germans and the seizure of a number of important points which the enemy had occupied, from whence he probably intended to make another forward bound.

PUT 22 BATTERIES OUT OF ACTION

Canadian Gunners Do Effective Work Against Enemy Positions.

A despatch from Canadian Army Headquarters, says:—All night long on Wednesday Canadian guns have been active against the enemy positions, shelling hostile batteries, routes, railways and dumps, while time after time hostile infantry positions, assembly areas and communications have been swept with a harassing fire. Indeed, since the last cable, artillery activity has been the main feature on the Canadian front. There have been constant duels between our own and enemy batteries. A considerable amount of gas has been used.

Early Thursday morning we carried out a small projector gas bombardment against the enemy positions, to which the Boche replied with gas shelling, but neither operations approached the magnitude of our heavy gas shell bombardment reported in cable of April 8, in which over 9,000 shells were fired on hostile artillery positions. That gas bombardment was as successful as it was extensive, 22 out of 32 batteries engaged having been out of action ever since.

While our guns have been active, our infantry have had a comparatively quiet time, save for constant clashes between patrols. In one vigorous encounter with a hostile raiding party, 20 strong, one of our patrols drove the raiders back in disorder, killing six, capturing two and wounding 10 at least. We suffered only three slight casualties.

RUSSIAN AIRMEN ARRIVE IN CANADA

Will Offer Their Services to the Royal Flying Corps.

A despatch from a Canadian Pacific Port says: Five Russian aviators, officers of the Russian Flying Corps, have arrived here on a trans-Pacific liner to offer their services to the British Royal Flying Corps.

They have served on the Austrian and Rumanian fronts, and all have been decorated for bravery. Col. Duklan, who heads the party, has been wounded three times.

When Russia lapsed into anarchy, the aviators said, they resolved to come to Canada. They practically fought their way out of the country, they asserted, and after weeks of hardships reached Japan where British Consular officers arranged their passage overseas.

In addition to Col. Duklan the party is composed of Capt. Rosmahof, and Lieuts. Katlarssfski, Petrenki and Astakof.

Prune and tie up all vines and creepers.

POTATOES MAY BE USED FOR MAKING OF BREAD IN BRITAIN

Farmers and Potato Dealers Ordered to Return Full Details of All Stocks By End of Month.

A despatch from London says: The excessive consumption of breadstuffs is causing the Ministry of Food to consider drastic steps to deal with the sale of bread and breadstuffs. It is stated that rationing of bread will come into effect early next month. Farmers and potato dealers have been ordered to return full details of all potato stocks to the Food Department by the end of the month.

Sir Charles Bathurst, speaking at a meeting of agriculturists, put the situation in regard to bread prospects for the next year in the forefront of his remarks. He said if England is to be fed sufficiently the next 12 months we must concentrate our attention to the potato more. I will be surprised, with my knowledge of the food position, if I do not find in 12 months that bread will be composed largely of potatoes, either in the form of flour or meal, or if we do not have to forego cereal loaves altogether and substitute potatoes for them.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, April 23—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.23½; No. 2, do., $2.20½; No. 3, do., $2.17½; No. 4 wheat, $2.10½; in store Fort William, including 2½c tax.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 91⅝c; No. 3 C.W., 88⅝c; extra No. 1 feed, 88½c; No. 1 feed, 85½c, in store Fort William.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, kiln dried, $1.90, nominal.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 91 to 92c; No. 3 white, 90 to 91c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2, Winter, per car lot, $2.22; basis in store Montreal.

Peas—No. 2, $3.60 to $3.70, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.64 to $1.65, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.80 to $1.82, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $2.65, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—War quality, $11.10, new bags, Toronto.

Ontario flour—War quality, $10.70, new bags, Toronto and Montreal freights, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $35.40; shorts, per ton, $40.40.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, $17 to $18; mixed, $14 to $16, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8.50 to $9, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Eggs—New-laid, 39 to 40c; selected, new-laid, 42 to 43c; cartons, 43 to 44c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, 49 to 50c; prints, 51 to 52c; fresh made, 52 to 53c; choice dairy prints, 40 to 42c; ordinary dairy prints, 38 to 40c; bakers', 35 to 36.

Oleomargarine—Best grade, 32 to 33c.

Cheese—New, large, 23 to 23½c; twins, 23½ to 23¾c; spring made, large, 25 to 26c; twins, 25½ to 26½c.

Beans—Canadian, prime, bushel, $7.50 to $8; foreign, hand-picked, bush., $6.75 to $7.

Comb honey—Choice, 16 oz., $3.50 per dozen; 12 oz., $3 per dozen; seconds and dark comb, $2.50 to $2.75.

Maple syrup—Imperial gallons, $2 to $2.25.

Provisions—Wholesale

Barrelled Meats—Pickled pork, $49; mess pork, $47.

Green meats—Out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

Smoked meats—Rolls, 32 to 33c; hams, medium, 36 to 37c; heavy, 30 to 31c; cooked hams, 47 to 48c; backs, plain, 43 to 44c; backs, boneless, 46 to 48c; breakfast bacon, 40 to 44c; cottage rolls, 35 to 36c.

Dry salted meats—Long clears, in tons, 29c; in cases, 29½c; clear bellies, 26 to 26½c; fat backs, 25c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 31 to 32c; tubs, 31½ to 32½c; pails, 31½ to 32½c; 1-lb. prints, 33 to 33½c. Shortening—Tierces, 26 to 26½c; tubs, 26½ to 26¾c; pails, 26½ to 27c; 1-lb. prints, 27½ to 28c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, April 23—Oats—Canadian Western, No. 3, $1.04½; extra No. 1 feed, $1.04½. Flour—New standard Spring wheat grade, $11.10 to $11.20. Rolled oats—Bag of 90 lbs., $5.60. Millfeed—Bran, $35.40; shorts, $40.40; middlings, $48 to $50; mouillie, $60 to $62. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, April 23—Cash prices:—Oats—No. 2 C.W., 91⅝c; No. 3, do., 88⅝c; extra No. 1 feed, 88½c; No. 1 feed, 85½c; No. 2, do., 81½c. Barley—No. 3, $1.57; No. 4, $1.52. Flax—No. 1 N.-W.C., $3.78½; No. 2 C.W., $3.74⅝; No. 3, do., $3.53⅝.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, April 23—Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.45 to $1.55. Oats—No. 3 white, 86 to 87c. Flour—Unchanged. Bran—$33.14.

Duluth, April 23—Linseed—$3.97½ to $4.05½; arrive and May, $3.99½; July, $3.96 bid; October, $3.57½ asked.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, April 23—Choice heavy steers, $12.75 to $13.50; good heavy steers, $12.25 to $12.50; butchers' cattle, choice, $12 to $12.40; do., good, $11.50 to $11.75; do., medium, $10.50 to $11; do., common, $9.75 to $10.25; butchers' bulls, choice, $10.50 to $11; do., good bulls, $10 to $10.25; do., med. bulls, $9 to $9.25; do., rough bulls, $6.75 to $7.25; butchers' cows, choice, $10.50 to $11; do., good, $10 to $10.25; do., medium, $9 to $9.50; stockers, $8.50 to $10; feeders, $10 to $11; canners and cutters, $6.25 to $7.25; milkers, good to choice, $90 to $125; do., com. and med., $65 to $80; springers, $90 to $125; light ewes, $13.50 to $16; lambs, $17 to $18.50; calves, good to choice, $13.50 to $15; hogs, fed and watered, $20; do., weighed off cars, $20.25; do., f.o.b., $19.

Montreal April 23—Choice steers, $12.25 to $13; good, $11.50 to $12; med., $9.50 to $11.25; choice butchers' cows, $9.50 to $10.50; medium cows, $8 to $9.50; butchers' bulls, $8 to $10.50; canners and cutters cows, $5.50 to $8; choice milk-fed calves, from $8 to $13; sheep, $13 to $15; choice select hogs, $21 to $21.75; sows, $19 to $20.

MAKE OF FINLAND ANOTHER BELGIUM

Ruthless Campaign of Massacre Carried Out by Germans and White Guards.

A despatch from New York says: "Germany is turning Finland into another Belgium, another Armenia," declared Santeri Nuorteva, representative in this country of the "Reds" or Provisional Government of the People's Republic of Finland.

Asserting that "in their lust for world-empire the German 'junkers' have reached a stage where wholesale murder is a commonplace of their plans," Nuorteva said also that "latest reports from Finland tell of horrible butcheries undertaken by the so-called 'White Guard,' in conjunction with their Prussian allies."

The White Guards, according to Nuorteva, comprise the army of that class in Finland which called upon the Germans to protect their "feudal privileges, menaced by the highly organized working class."

He said that thousands of men and women, first of all those of prominence in the Labor movement, have been shot. He further stated that the Finnish "feudal class" furnishes the German invaders with lists of its political opponents, and the proscribed persons are ruthlessly murdered.

ELEPHANTS REPLACE HORSES IN THE BERLIN STREETS.

A despatch from Rome says:—Zurich reports that Germany is suffering from railway difficulties owing to a shortage of rolling stock, and the bad state of the roads. Elephants replaced horses in Berlin's streets for the transport of coal during a recent heavy snowstorm, and, failing these, thousands of Russian prisoners were made to deliver coal to the Berlin homes.

BRITISH TAKE PRISONERS IN RAID ON ITALIAN FRONT.

A despatch from Rome says: British troops operating on the Italian front made a successful rail on Thursday. The official report read: "In the Asiago basin British detachments carried out successful actions against hostile advanced positions, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy and taking 22 prisoners."

Japanese maples are dwarf trees of graceful form with deep colored foliage. Excellent effect is produced by massing.

Scene of the Greatest Battle in the War.

Map shows Neuve Eglise, which was taken and retaken several times by the British, Messines, Wytschaete, Bailleul and Hazebrouck, which is the main objective of the enemy.

AUSTRALIANS RAID GILEAD

Anzacs Smite The Turks Where Israel Smote the Amorites.

A despatch from British Headquarters in Palestine says:—"Australian troops inflicted most severe losses on the enemy in the Jordan area in a recent raid into Gilead. They destroyed five miles of the Hedjaz railway line and took over a thousand prisoners.

"We withdrew to the right bank of the Jordan, bringing several thousand refugees desiring British protection. We maintained, however, a bridgehead on the other side of the Ghoraniyeh Ford.

"On April 11 the enemy assaulted the bridgehead at Ghoraniyeh and advanced posts ten miles up the west bank of the Jordan. The attack was preceded by violent shelling, as many as 40 shells a minute from field and mountain guns spraying our positions, but all attempts to advance were completely held up.

"Another attack was seriously pushed opposite Ghoraniyeh. The Anzacs, utilizing the excellent cover of the bank of the Jordan, awaited the 2,000 Turks debouching in open order from the hills against the bridgehead. The guns mowed down the assailants, who persevered until 300 yards distant, when they melted away under the pitiless rifle and machine gun fire. The following morning 367 corpses were counted before the lines despite the night-long burial of the dead by the Turks. The actual number of enemy killed was almost a thousand. When the Turks fell back the Australian cavalry charged to cut off the retreat, taking a hundred prisoners, besides inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy. Our losses were insignificant.

BRITISH RED CROSS FUND REACHES $50,000,000.

A despatch from London says: The British Red Cross Fund has reached £10,000,000. The King has written to the London Times, which raised the fund, expressing his congratulations. In the course of the letter he says:

"I am especially proud of the noble generosity displayed by Britons overseas. Nor can I forget the munificence with which the American Red Cross has supported the work of the British Red Cross, cementing still further the ties which unite the two countries.

The Doings of the Duffs.