

BROKE GERMAN LINE

Details of Important Allied Victory Before Ypres.

OLD SCORE IS WIPE OUT

Capture of Messines Ridges Peculiarly Gratifying, as It Was the Scene of Former British Defeat—Defenses Shattered.

With the British Armies in France, June 7.—In one of the most elaborately planned and daringly executed maneuvers of the war Sir Douglas Haig's forces have dealt a mighty blow against the German line in Belgium, and been rewarded with notable gains in terrain and the capture of more than 5,000 prisoners and numerous guns of various caliber. In addition they inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans.

The Germans, though apparently aware that the blow was coming and seemingly prepared to meet it, were driven from their nearly three years' hold on Messines ridge, opposite "poor old" Ypres. Ypres in a sense was avenged today, for Messines ridge has been the vantage point from which the Germans have poured torrents of shells into the stricken city. The British also wiped off an old score against the Germans, for they held the ridge in October, 1914, and with very thin forces, and virtually no artillery, fought bloodily but vainly to hold it when the Prussian troops massed their modern and overpowering weapons of war against it.

Prisoners taken declared that the bombardment of Vimy ridge was child's play compared with the gunfire turned upon Messines ridge.

Triumph for Artillery.

This fire reached its climax just as dawn was graying the eastern skies and while the full moon was still suspended high in the heavens.

The attack was accompanied by all the arts and devilities of latter-day war. The enemy guns and gun crews had been bathed for days in gas shells sent over by the long-range British guns.

The night was filled with red incendiary flames. Shells that spurted lead in streams crashed in appalling numbers about the heads of the defending soldiers. High-explosive and shrapnel fire was carried out with such rapidity that the earth writhed under the force of the attack.

Mines that had taken two years to dig and fill with an overwhelming explosive broke into an avalanche of flaming destruction in the half light of dawn. This was indeed an Ypres day of retaliation and victory, for the vicious sufferings of two years and eight months.

Gunners Strip to Waist.

It was a day of intense heat, and the gunners worked stripped to the waist. The attack went forward with clock-like regularity.

The British casualties were slight. Three out of four of the casualties were reported to be walking cases, who would return to duty in a few days.

The attack began at dawn, and the setting was as picturesque as can well be imaginable. The day before had been hot and sultry. Toward evening there was a series of thunder storms which extended well into the night, the lightning mingling with the flashes of the guns, but the thunder being virtually unnoticed amid the din of the cannon. A full moon struggled continuously to break through the heavy clouds which seethed across the velvety night sky.

Sing on Way to Fight.

On the way to the front were all the familiar pictures of the war—endless trains of motor trucks; all varieties of horse transport, the British soldiers marching to battle light of heart and singing songs familiar in every American community.

In the shadow of an old windmill which has withstood the storms of a century and been undaunted by nearly three years of war, the correspondent witnessed the last phases of the seven-day preliminary bombardment and the final outburst of the guns which sent the British infantry confidently on their way to new successes in fighting the greatest military nation the world has ever known.

From the German line the same lazy, looping rocket signals were ascending to illuminate the treacherous bit of ground between the trenches known as No Man's Land. This nightily "strafing" had been going on so long that the enemy considered it entirely normal and took no alarm. Occasionally blue and yellow rockets would be flung into the air by Germans holding the front line.

Like Volcanoes in Eruption.

Day was scarcely breaking when from the dimly visible ridge a score of fiery volcanoes seemed suddenly to spring from the earth. The night had been filled with strange noises and still stranger sights, but these masses of flame, leaping from the ground, had a meaning all their own. They were the spectacular outward and visible evidences of more than a million pounds of high explosives which had been buried deep in mines below the enemy's positions for months.

All the world appeared lurid and

horrible under the sinister glow. The earth shook as if torn by a great seismic disturbance. It was not a single shock. The force of the explosion actually set the earth rocking to and fro, and under the influence of the giant guns, which immediately began to roar from far and near, the trembling continued indefinitely. It was 3:10 o'clock when this final terrific bombardment began.

It has seemed that the battle of the Somme attained the ultimate in the close assembly of war weapons, but this sudden outpouring on Messines ridge was beyond all calculation. The lighter field guns far forward set up a perfect curtain fire, under which the assaulting troops trudged confidently to their allotted goals. Farther back the deep-throated heavies began to pour out torrents of high explosive shells on the German trenches and communications, while still other guns—enough to win any ordinary battle—confined themselves solely to the task of deluging German guns and gunners in baths of gas fired in shells of every conceivable caliber.

The effect of this counter battery work was not appreciated until later in the day, when the Infantry sent back word that their progress had not been hampered by the enemy artillery and that their casualties amounted to virtually nothing.

Enemy Signals for Help.

Great black observation balloons had stolen skyward during the din of the newly begun battle. In the wood back of the windmills spring birds, awakened by the deafening clamor, had begun to sing joyously. Like so many children who have come into the consciousness of being in the midst of the war, these birds regarded the appalling noise of the battle as a normal condition of life.

The smoke of the giant mines exploded along the battle front meantime rose in great, curling plumes toward the sky and was punctuated by red signals for help from the stricken Germans in the front and support lines. Never was the air filled with more frantic notices of danger. The entire horizon glowed with red balls of fire sent up by the nervous Germans.

More and more British airplanes began to make their appearance. One flew over the lines, the flashes of the guns being reflected brilliantly on its highly glazed wings.

Under this appalling fire trudged forward on the ten-mile front General Plumer's army. At many places the men found German troops utterly dazed by the mine explosion and the ordeal of the artillery fire.

First Taste of New Warfare.

Many of these troops had but recently come from Russia, where they had spent 18 months and knew nothing of what actual warfare was like on the western front. They had bolted at the first mine explosion and had only been gathered together in groups by their noncommissioned officers when the British appeared out of the smoke and shells and made them prisoner.

They said they had been given to understand by their officers that the British always killed their prisoners. It was really pitiful in some instances to see the manner in which these prisoners cringed to their captors.

As a matter of fact, the British soldier, when the fighting is done, is inclined almost too strongly to treat the German prisoners as pals. Some of the prisoners taken today had only gone into the German lines last night and had made their way forward under a galling fire and had lost heavily. But the troops already in the line were calling for relief in such a manner that their appeals could not be denied.

Failed to Time Attack.

In view of the fact that the attack had been expected the German commanders were endeavoring to get their best units actually into the fighting front, but had underestimated when the British would strike. The troops in a strange line were utterly bewildered when the attack began and fell easily prey to the advancing British.

The Irish, New Zealanders and Australians, who had been rehearsed in every detail of "the show," knew just what to do from the moment the word to advance was given.

The battle was far more visible during the first uncertain moments than later when the sun gradually burned its way through the eastern banks of clouds. By that time the smoke of exploding shells and the vapors from the blinding barrage, which had been part of the artillery duty, obscured the more distant landscape to such an extent that the roaring guns could not be seen at all, although the firing was almost at one's feet. The brilliantly leaping shrapnel shells, breaking far above ground, appeared through a thick mist only as brief and brilliant electric sparks.

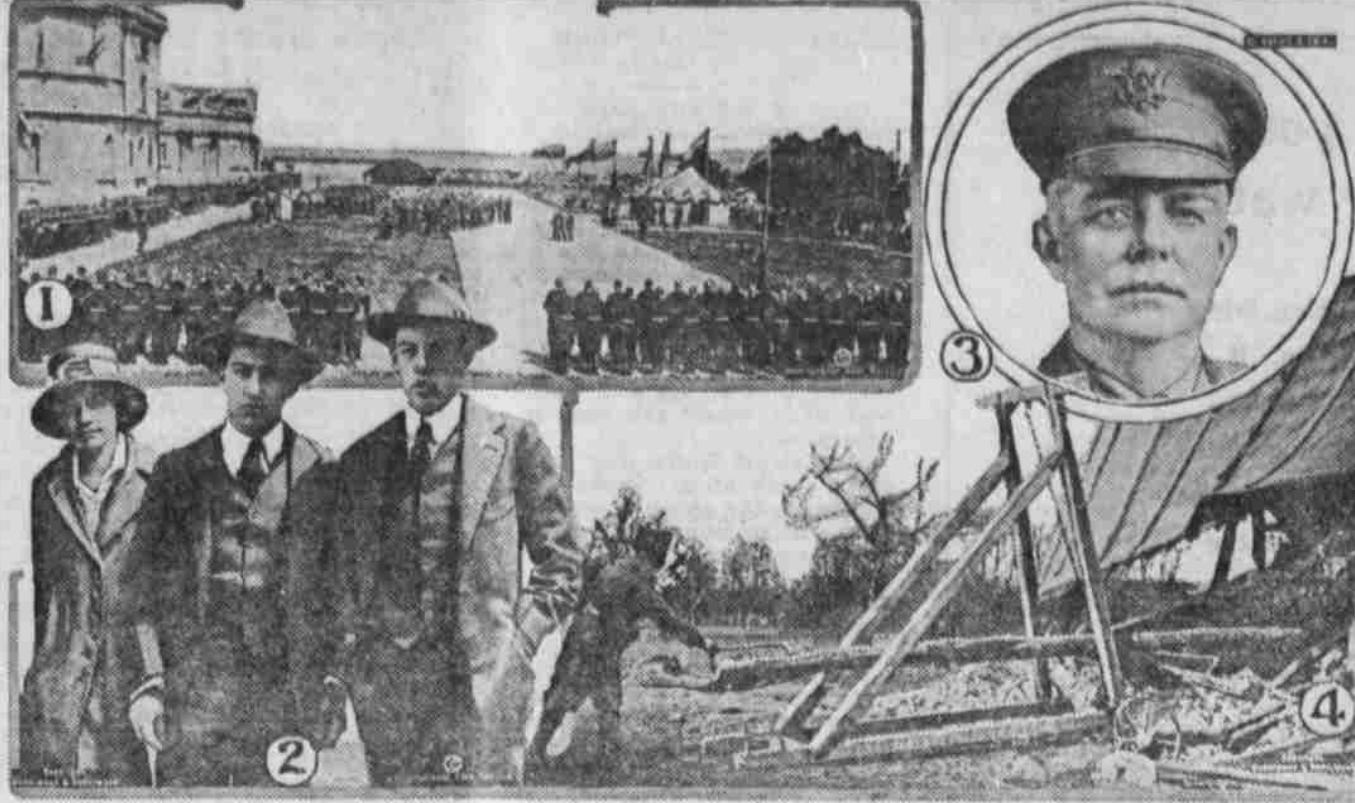
British Planes Rule Air.

For a month past, but especially since June 1, the airplanes on this front have been indefatigably at work during every possible flying hour. They had brought down nearly 50 machines in six days as a means of blinding the enemy. Lately the Germans have endeavored valiantly to obtain airplane observations for their artillery, but their observing machines have seldom been able to direct more than one or two shots before the British fighting scouts had pounced upon them and either sent them crashing to the earth or had driven them to cover at breakneck speed.

Today the British planes flew far and long over the enemy's retreating lines and were only challenged by some very bad-shooting anti-aircraft batteries. All through the day British planes ruled the air. They co-operated actively with the British artillery and infantry in maintaining the success of this brilliant episode in modern warfare.

British Offensive in Flanders.

After a smashing bombardment lasting three days, the British began their expected offensive in Flanders early Thursday morning with an explosion that was heard by Premier Lloyd George at Walton Heath, 140 miles away. Nine miles of German positions along the Ypres-Armentieres front



1—Scene in the great Russian fortress of Kronstadt, whose garrison revolted but later yielded to the provisional government. 2—Eleanor Parker of Barnard college and Charles F. Phillips and Owen Cattell of Columbia university, who were arrested in New York for conspiring against the draft; Phillips pleaded guilty and asked permission to register. 3—Brig. Gen. R. E. L. Michie, aid to General Scott in the Root mission now in Russia; the low-collared uniform he has on is now disapproved by the war department. 4—One of the battering rams used by the Germans to destroy without explosives the cottages in the French territory from which they are being driven by the allies.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

More Than Ten Million Young Americans Register for National Army.

PERSHING REACHES ENGLAND

British Start Tremendous Offensive in Belgium, First Blowing Up Messines Ridge — Japan Warns Russia Against Withdrawing From the War—Food Scarcity Worries Germany.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

More than 10,000,000 men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty years responded to the call of the nation on Tuesday, June 5, registration day for the national army. Thus the first step in the execution of the selective service law was completed with gratifying success and the predictions of the Germans and of the traitors in America who side with them that the registration would be a failure were proved false.

That there would be opposition to the registration was a foregone conclusion, but it was sporadic and on the whole was of no importance. Such hostile demonstrations as there were generally took place in strongholds of the I. W. W. and the Socialists and were promptly squelched.

Returns from some states were below the estimates of the census bureau, but in other states those estimates were exceeded. A large proportion of those registering claimed exemption, usually because of dependent relatives, and the war department officials, as a result, intimated that the rules governing exemption would be tightened.

The considerable number of claims for exemption really does not mean that so many young Americans desire to avoid service. Such a conclusion would be most unjust, for everywhere there were evidences of unbounded patriotism and loyalty, and the indications of exemption claims arose mainly from the necessary answers to questions that were merely statistical.

As soon as the machinery of registration is readjusted, 1,500,000 names will be drafted, the exemption boards will do their work and 625,000 men will be called for immediate service.

Pershing Arrives in England.

The safe arrival of General Pershing and his staff at an English port was announced on Friday.

The naval collier Jupiter, laden with grain and other supplies for the Pershing army and escorted by American warships, arrived at a French port; a squadron of our warships arrived at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, presumably to relieve the British navy of the patrol of the South Atlantic; and more hospital units landed in England and proceeded to France. So much the government allowed to be known of the movements of our armed forces. Military expediency demanded the suppression of much more interesting news.

Preparations have been made for the reception of American troops in France. A number of bases have been organized, camps for infantry and artillery have been laid out, and aviation parks established.

From France came the news of the exploit of the American steamship Silvershell which encountered an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean. The two vessels fought for an hour and a half, exchanging many shots, and then one shell fired by the naval gunners on the Silvershell found its mark and the U-boat was sent to the bottom.

British Offensive in Flanders.

After a smashing bombardment lasting three days, the British began their expected offensive in Flanders early Thursday morning with an explosion that was heard by Premier Lloyd George at Walton Heath, 140 miles away. Nine miles of German positions along the Ypres-Armentieres front

were blown into the air by 20 charges of high explosives, totaling a million pounds. Instantly the Englishmen, Irishmen, Australians and New Zealanders that make up the British army in Belgium sprang forward in successive waves, and one of the fiercest battles of the war was on.

The attack was directed at the Messines ridge, between Messines and Wytschaete, where ever since October of 1914 the Germans had maintained themselves in a sharp salient that always threatened Ypres, only three miles to the north. The morning rush resulted in the capture of Messines and Wytschaete and the enemy's defense systems on the nine-mile front, and later in the day another forward movement took the British into and through the village of Oosttaverne. The entire salient was straightened out and all the counter-attacks were repulsed. Any considerable further advance in this sector will threaten the German hold on Lille, which is about five miles from the nearest British position. Large numbers of prisoners already have been taken.

The Germans must have known that the attack of Messines ridge was intended, for the preparatory bombardment was terrific, and yet reports from prisoners indicated that they actually were taken by surprise.

In preparation for the operations in Flanders the British fleet co-operated with the land forces, subjecting Ostend to severe bombardment. The British air forces also were in action, repeatedly raiding the German bases at Zeebrugge, Ostend and Bruges. In retaliation a squadron of German airplanes attacked the British naval base in the Medway, close to London, on Tuesday, but was driven off with the loss of eight machines.

Several times during the week the Germans made vicious attacks in the Aisne and Champagne sectors and even gained possession of some French positions; but the gallant pell-mell almost immediately recovered the lost ground, inflicting severe losses on the enemy.

The Austrians claimed to have effectively checked the Italian advance toward Trieste, and announced that the Italian losses in the offensive were 180,000 men. On Tuesday the Italians were forced back south of Jamiano.

Dispatches from Rome revealed the fact that Italy had proclaimed the independence of Albania.

Once more the British admiralty issued a very satisfactory report on the work of the submarines, showing but 23 British vessels sunk in the week, five of which were fishing vessels. The American destroyers completed their first month in the war and have proved themselves most valuable aids to the British naval forces.

Russia is Warned.

Conditions in Russia remain chaotic, though they may be straightened out somewhat by the work of the Root commission and the American railway engineers. The revolt of the garrison of Kronstadt, which declared the island fortress independent of the government, caused considerable concern in Petrograd, but as the action of the garrison was denounced by the Petrograd council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates it collapsed, and the garrison bowed to the authority of the provisional government.

Following President Wilson's example, France replied to Russia's statement of her peace plan by setting forth in a general way the demands of the French. These, embodied in a vote of the chamber of deputies, include the liberation of the territories invaded by Germany, the return to France of Alsace-Lorraine and just reparation for damage.

Japan also took official cognizance last week of the Russian crisis, informing the government at Petrograd that if Russia withdraws from the war Japan, in consultation with England and the United States, will consider what measures to adopt. The provisional government was warned that if Russia accepts a separate peace it will become another Austria under the domination of Germany, will lose Poland, Lithuania and Finland and will be stripped of many of her outlying possessions. Furthermore, Japan informed Great Britain that while, in case of Russia's withdrawal from the war, Japan would prefer to send her troops to France rather than to undertake military chastisement of

Russia, she would nevertheless be compelled to take such steps as were necessary to protect her interests.

Northcliffe Comes to America.

An interesting development of the week was the acceptance by Lord Northcliffe of the position of head of the British war commission in the United States in succession to Arthur J. Balfour. The great editor and publisher is, next to Lloyd-George, the most influential man in Great Britain and it is predicted that his work in America will be momentous.

A neat example of German methods of oppression is supplied by the treatment of Mons. That Belgian town was fined \$100,000 last week because a Belgian paper, printed in Holland, announced that Crown Prince Rudolph of Bavaria was in Mons when that city was bombarded by allied airmen—also, probably, because the Germans needed the money.

The finance committee of the senate put in another strenuous week revamping the war revenue bill, and finally got it in shape for consideration by the senate.



JUST A LITTLE SMILE



VERY OLD-FASHIONED.

"I'll go to this musical comedy with you if you are sure the chorus will be properly clad," said the model young man.

"Have no fears as to that. I can assure you that this show was produced by a man who has some regard for the proprieties."

"Good!"

"Yes. He won't stand for bare legs. If a chorus girl won't wear tights she can't work for him."

A Crack Shot.

"It is my aim," said the angular female, who took in boarders because she needed the money, "to give my guests only the most substantial food."

"And every time you aim you manage to hit the bullseye," rejoined the pale young man. "Your beefsteak is undeniably the most substantial thing I was ever introduced to outside a leather dispensary."

Turning of the Worm.

Mrs. Enpeck—I found one of your old love letters while cleaning house today.

Enpeck—Did it contain anything of a startling nature?

Mrs. Enpeck—Well, you stated in it that you would rather dwell in endless torment, with me than to live in bliss alone!

Enpeck—Huh! My foot dream certainly came out, all right, didn't it?

ECONOMICAL.



The Reformer—Are you in favor of women voting?

The Politician—Sure. You could buy all the votes you wanted for \$1.98.

Defective Vision.

Two sides there are to everything. That's said or thought or done. And yet, two-thirds of us, by Jing, Can only look at one.

Not Much Progress.

"At an early age he was thrown on his own resources."

"And now he's a millionaire. Think of that!"

"Oh, he doesn't