

BRITONS CAPTURE ELEVEN THOUSAND

Germans Driven from Northern End of Vimy Ridge and Eastern Slope Cleared.

FIGHTING ON WIDE FRONT

(Continued From Page One.)

Fighting continued along the entire front.

The British have seized the village of Fampoux and the neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe river. The Germans made a strong attack on a narrow front southeast of Ypres and reached the British support lines. They were driven from the British trenches by a counter attack.

Enemy Ejected.

The announcement, which is timed 11:50 a. m., is as follows:

"During the night there was severe fighting at the northern end of Vimy ridge, where the enemy had retained a footing. He was ejected and an attempted counter attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge has been cleared of the enemy and counter attacks repulsed.

"Our troops advanced and seized the village of Fampoux and neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe.

"The number of prisoners taken yesterday exceeds 9,000 and over forty guns have been captured.

"In the neighborhood of St. Quentin the enemy has been driven from the high ground between Le Verquien and Hargicourt. Fighting continues throughout the whole battle front.

"After an intense bombardment the enemy made a strong attack last night on a narrow front southeast of Ypres and succeeded in reaching our support lines. He was immediately ejected from our trenches, leaving several dead."

News Stirs London.

The news of the successful opening of the new British offensive has stirred high hope among the people throughout the country. Whatever the enemy may have claimed as to the retreat in the Somme sector having been rearranged and strategical, it is contended that their receding before the blow delivered in the Arras-Lens region cannot be explained away in such manner. It is urged that there is no possible voluntary element in this retirement and that there can be no dispute as to who took the initiative.

A new chapter in the conflict on the western front has begun and whether or not it is to prove the beginning of a decisive battle, it is bound, according to the prevalent opinion here, to lead to results of the highest importance. The main feature of the battle thus far on which attention has been focused, is the capture of Vimy ridge. The immense value of this series of heights which dominate the plain from an elevation of 400 to 500 feet has been recognized throughout the war and great sacrifices have been regarded as justifiable if they resulted in its possession. The French and Germans fought fiercely for control of the ridge in the summer of 1915, both sides suffering heavy losses, but in the end the Germans held the main portion of the position. Later the British took over the French lines and were ousted by the Germans from the part of the ridge which had been won by their predecessors.

Important Strategic Position. One military critic, commenting on the present battle, thus describes the importance of Vimy heights. "They are the key to the bastion of the enemy's western line. Whatever else has been allowed to be held Vimy ridge with firm resolve and lavished upon it all the arts in fortifications and defensive skill that the war has taught him. Upon it hinges the whole strategy of the enemy's retreat in the west. With Vimy firmly held he can swing his line farther south slowly back, until each part of it reaches the position where he has a mind to stand and he can cover the French industrial districts upon which he depends much for supplies. But with Vimy gone the defense of these districts can hardly be maintained. The pivot of the whole retreat shifts and gives backward and is in instant risk of fracture."

The issues depending upon British ability to hold the ridge are therefore immense. At the moment there is nothing to suggest a doubt that the ridge will be held, but the battle is still fiercely continuing and there is little disposition here to indulge in confident predictions. Nevertheless the opinion is expressed that if the Germans are definitely driven from the ridge without hope of reattack, they are likely enough to be compelled to acknowledge defeat and to retire to what is called the Meuse line, running from Verdun through Metz, Maubeuge and Lille.

Front Fifty Miles Long. In the meantime the fighting goes on over a front of about fifty miles, roughly, from Lens to St. Quentin, the core of attack being around the north of Arras. As far as information goes, everything is going well for the British and justifies their sanguine hopes, but the comments today generally include a warning not to allow these hopes to run too high. The enemy is known to have great reserves at hand and an iron compulsion binds him to make every effort to avoid defeat. The papers warn the country that it should await the event in a spirit of sober expectation and that it is not the time for exuberant boasting.

Berlin Admits Losses. Berlin, April 10.—(Via London).—"The British," says the German official statement today, "succeeded in penetrating our positions on the roads radiating from Arras, but did not break through. Two of our divisions suffered considerable losses. The battle continues."

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

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The British casualties have been light, due largely to the splendid artillery covering.

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The crowded cages for prisoners at corps and divisional headquarters have been a source of greatest interest to the Tommies who are awaiting their turn at the front. They gather about the outer circle of barbed wire and converse with the Germans who are able to speak English. Even in this third year of the war waters from London hotels who are captured anxiously inquire how things are going there and if the Zeppelins left any visible signs on the city.

Loud laughter rings about the cages at some of these queries and the replies of the Tommies cause laughter in turn within the cages. The prisoners toss out water bottles, which the British refill and fling back. There is also a lively exchange of souvenirs.

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Russia Expects Germany Will Strike a Decisive Blow Soon

Petrograd, April 10.—(Via London).—The provisional government has issued a proclamation directing attention to the grave danger of a German effort to deliver a decisive blow at Russia and the necessity of immediately concentrating all of Russia's forces for the defeat of the enemy.

"The provisional government," says the proclamation, "feels that it has no right to hide the truth. The state is in danger and it is necessary to employ all our powers to save it. The old regime left Russia in a sadly disorganized condition, especially in the matter of finance, food supply, transport and munitions."

"The provisional government will devote all its energies to repair the serious consequences of the old regime. The blood of many sons of the fatherland has been shed freely in the course of these two and a half long years of war, but the country still is capable of a powerful blow at the enemy, who occupies whole territories of our state and is now—in the days of birth of Russian liberty—threatening us with a new and decisive thrust."

"The defense, cost what it may, of our national patrimony and the deliverance of the country from the enemy, who invades our borders, constitutes the vital problem before our warriors who are defending the liberty of the people in close union with our allies."

"The government deems it to be its duty to declare now that free Russia does not aim at the domination of other nations, at depriving them of their national patrimony or at occupying by force foreign territories, but

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that its object is to establish a durable peace on rights of nations to decide their own destiny.

"The Russian nation does not just after the strengthening of its power abroad at the expense of other nations. Its aim is not to subjugate or humiliate any one. In the name of the higher principles of equity it has removed the chains which weighed upon the Polish people, but the Russian nation will not allow its fatherland to come out of the great struggle humiliated and weakened in its vital forces. These principles will constitute the basis of the foreign policy of the provisional government, which will carry out unflinchingly the popular will and safeguard the rights of our fatherland while observing the engagements entered into with our allies."

"The provisional government of free Russia has no right to hide the truth. The state is in danger. Every effort must be made to have it let the country respond to the truth when it is told, not by sterile depressions and not by discouragement, but by unanimous vigor, with a view to creating a united national will."

"This will give us new strength for the struggle and will procure our salvation. In this hour of rude trial let the whole country find in itself strength to consolidate the liberty won and devote itself to the welfare of free Russia."

"The provisional government, which has given its solemn oath to serve the people, is firmly confident that with the general and unanimous support of each one and all it will itself be able to do its duty to its country to the end. (Signed) LYOFF, "President of the Council."

W. R. C. Speaker Would Put Disloyal At Mercy of Subseas

At the monthly meeting of the Custer Relief Corps at the court house yesterday afternoon speakers were used in speaking of the disloyal citizens of the United States. Mrs. Ellen Hershner opened the discussion by saying that every person in America who even thinks of not supporting the United States, but instead sympathizes with some other country, ought to be placed in a ship and set adrift on the sea to be blown up. "In that way," she added, "the bad ones would be eliminated for good."

Mrs. Augustus Lockner, who is of German descent and whose husband fought in the civil war, said: "Although I am part German, at times like this, I think that everybody ought to stand by the flag. If they don't, let them be punished severely, regardless of their mother country." Another woman said that every man who shows any inclination toward being disloyal to the Stars and Stripes ought to be shot right on the spot.

Another important matter discussed was the part that the corps will take in the war. The relief corps of the city will unite in the work and co-operate with the Red Cross society.

Dick Rutherford Accepts Offer of Washington Uni

Lincoln, Neb., April 10.—(Special Telegram).—"Dick" Rutherford, for the last year assistant coach at the University of Nebraska, tonight sent an acceptance to the offer of Washington university at St. Louis to become director of athletics.

Rutherford will sever his connection with the Husker institution at the close of the present school year. The St. Louis offer represents a substantial increase in salary and also puts the Nebraska star in complete control of the athletic affairs of the St. Louis institution.

The loss of Rutherford was keenly regretted by Dr. E. J. Stewart, the head coach, as relations between the two men had been the most cordial. Rutherford is 26 years old and married, a base ball, foot ball, basketball and wrestling star.

ROOSEVELT HAS TALK WITH WILSON

Colonel Lays His Plan for Volunteer Division for Foreign Service Before President.

BIG CROWD CHEERS HIM

Washington, April 10.—Colonel Roosevelt called on President Wilson at the White House today and was received in the executive mansion.

Colonel Roosevelt was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth.

Colonel Roosevelt laid his plan for raising a division of troops for foreign service before the president and said that he had been received with the "utmost courtesy and consideration."

On departing from the White House after half an hour's conference with the president, Colonel Roosevelt gave out a statement, which in part follows:

"I am heart and soul for the principle of universal military training. I would favor it if the aim were to raise 3,000,000 men. I am for both universal obligatory training and service. Call it conscription, and I will say yes. You cannot frighten by any name."

"The division that I ask permission to raise would be made up of men who would not be taken under conscription. They would be over 25 years of age or of the excepted classes under 25."

Several hundred persons gathered outside the White House gates and cheered Roosevelt as he left.

As the colonel turned to leave "Jack," a negro